



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for Health
Minister for Families and Community Services
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Member for Kurrajong

Senator Jordon Steele-John
Chair
Select Committee into the Provision of and Access to
Dental Services in Australia
dental.services.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator ~~Jordan~~ *Jordan*

Thank you for your letter dated 21 September 2023, requesting additional information on eligibility for public dental services. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I note that most of the information you have requested was in the ACT Government's submission provided to the inquiry, which I have enclosed for your convenience.

I can advise the eligibility criteria was established in 2007 by ACT Health but has developed as services evolved and is now managed by Canberra Health Services (CHS). Since the public dental services commenced, the criteria have been regularly reviewed, which has resulted in significant amendments.

In line with the national and territory level program, changes have been made including:

- A collaborative approach to implementation of Justice Health Model of Care in line with recommendations from the "Healthy Prisons" review;
- Establishment of a Child Dental Benefits Schedule to provide extended access to the eligible children in the ACT;
- Implementation of the Targeted Access Program to provide fee free dental treatment to the most vulnerable in the ACT community; and
- Launch of Mobile Dental Clinics to provide services to nursing homes in the ACT.

CHS regularly reviews its service arrangements to ensure best practice and Oral Health Services within CHS is currently undergoing a service level reform.

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The scope of the reform will include a review of the patient's journey through the service as well as eligibility criteria.

The service review is the only driver for the current reform in 2023. As noted above, slight adjustments were derived due to the changes in the national and territory level programs. I understand these were in line with changes across other jurisdictions.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
1 November 2023

Encl. (1)