



Health department at first hearing of dental inquiry

The Department of Health and Ageing will discuss key issues for the provision of dental care at the first public hearing of the Health and Ageing Committee's inquiry into adult dental services on March 12.

Committee chair, Jill Hall MP, said this hearing will be an opportunity for the department to outline the current state of dental health in Australia and to respond to questions on what is an important aspect of health care.

"With up to 400,000 adults currently on public dental waiting lists in Australia, the government needs to take action to improve accessibility to dental services for these individuals," Ms Hall said.

"The committee aims to identify the priorities for the National Partnership Agreement for adult public dental services so that those in need can get dental care regardless of where they live."

The inquiry will focus on:

- demand for dental services across Australia and issues associated with waiting lists;
- mix and coverage of dental services supported by state and territory governments, and the Australian Government;
- availability and affordability of dental services for people with special dental health needs;
- availability and affordability of dental services for people living in metropolitan, regional, rural and remote locations;
- coordination of dental services between the two tiers of government and with privately funded dental services; and
- workforce issues relevant to the provision of dental services.

The committee's public hearing will be on **Tuesday, 12 March 2013**, from **12.00 pm** in Committee Room **1R3**, Parliament House, Canberra.

Audio of proceedings will be webcast on <http://aph.gov.au/live>

Members of the public are welcome to attend. The program and other information about the enquiry can be obtained from the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/haa.

For media comment: please contact the Office of Jill Hall MP on (02) 4947 9711.

For all other enquiries: please contact the Committee Secretariat by phone on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/haa.