



Health Committee sinks teeth into dental inquiry

The House of Representatives Health Committee is holding an inquiry into adult dental services to identify priorities for Commonwealth funding.

The inquiry will enable the committee to identify the dental needs of people living in each state and territory.

And it will consider the National Partnership Agreement (NPA), which from July 2014 will provide funding directly to state and territory governments to expand services for adults in the public dental system.

Committee chair Jill Hall, MP, said the committee is determined to get grassroots views on the dental health needs of communities across Australia.

“People in need should be able to access affordable dental care, regardless of what state or territory they live in, or whether they live in a remote community, a big city or a country town,” she said.

“We are especially keen to learn from service providers themselves. Their experience is invaluable for developing policies that will deliver the best possible outcomes.”

The committee intends to hear from representatives of all states and territories during the inquiry and 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.

Details of the first public hearing will be available soon. Full terms of reference and further information on the inquiry are available on 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.