



ACT Government

2003-2004 BUDGET

\$500,000 to BOOST DENTAL SERVICES PROGRAM

An additional \$500,000 recurrent funding in this year's Budget for Adult Dental Services will reduce waiting lists for restorative and denture services and provide better general dental care for holders of current Centrelink concession cards.

"This year's initiative provides the ACT with the funding to ensure acceptable waiting lists are achieved by recruiting additional public dentists and building partnerships with private providers who understand the nature of our clients and business," said Health Minister Simon Corbell.

"In the longer term, the initiative will allow regular check-ups and more routine, elective treatment rather than the high proportion of emergency treatment currently performed. Waiting until an emergency situation is reached often requires more extensive and costly treatment and can reduce the treatment options available to the client.

The Minister added that many life-threatening diseases, including some cancers and heart disease, are often reflected in oral health and regular examinations offer the opportunity for early intervention and increase the chances of a positive prognosis.

"Good oral health is a key contributor to achieving and maintaining a good quality of life and good health and we are committed to ensuring high standards for this essential component of public health," Mr Corbell said.

Mr Corbell said increased funding for the dental program reflected new directions in public health dentistry that urged a shift away from emergency services to general dental care, and restoration rather than extraction of teeth.

Statement ends.

Media Release

