



Lift the Lip (Dental) Referral Options

Tooth decay can start as soon as the first tooth appears in the mouth. Early signs to look for:

- White lines along the gum line indicate a decay process which can be reversed by the use of fluoride. Make a dental appointment.
- Brown or yellow spots that don't brush off indicate advanced decay which will become a 'hole' that will need to be filled. Make an urgent dental appointment.

Public Dental Health Services

- Children from 0-4 years can receive subsidised dental care at Public Dental Clinics if they, or their parent or carer has a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
- All school children are eligible for dental care through the School Dental Service from the year they turn five until the end of Year 11 or the attainment of 17 years of age whichever comes first
- Perth Children's Hospital provides emergency dental services (e.g. trauma or infection) but does not provide preventative or restorative services

Private settings

Private dentists may or may not:

- Provide services to children of any age
- Participate in the **Child Dental Benefits Schedule**
- Offer a bulk-billing for their services via the Child Dental Benefits Schedule
- Provide services to children at the Private Health Insurance rebate amount only.

The Child Dental Benefits Schedule

- Is a dental benefits program governed by the Commonwealth via the Department of Human Services for **eligible children** aged 2-17 years
- Eligible children:
 - Children aged between 2 –17 years on any one day of the calendar year whose family, or carer receives Family Tax Benefit Part A for at least part of the calendar year
 - The Department of Human Services has written to all eligible families to confirm eligibility.
- Provides up to \$1,000 in benefits to the child for **basic dental services** over two consecutive calendar years.
- Private dental practices are able to provide services under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule that are either Bulk Billed (no gap to be paid) or Non Bulk Billed (gap to be paid).
- Public Dental Clinics are not participating in the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.
- **Basic dental services:**
 - Examinations, x-rays, cleaning, fissure sealing, fillings, root canals, extractions and partial dentures (the services required may exceed the \$1,000 benefit).
 - Benefits are not available for orthodontic or cosmetic dental work and cannot be paid for any services provided in a hospital.

Aboriginal services

Aboriginal children can receive free dental care at Aboriginal Medical Services which contain a dental clinic. These include:

East Perth
Broome
Carnarvon

Derby
Geraldton
Halls Creek

Kalgoorlie
Kununurra
Port Hedland

Roebourne
Warburton
Wiluna

For further information please call Dental Health Services on 9313 0555 or the Australian Dental Association on 9211 5600. (June 2018)