

## Children's teeth secure following Government announce ongoing commitment to Child Dental Benefits Schedule

Tonight's Federal Budget announcement that the Government is committing \$1billion to ensure the sustainability of the Child Dental Benefits Schedule for the next few years has been congratulated by the Australian Dental Association (ADA). This includes a commitment to public sector access to the CDBS.

Welcoming the announcement Dr Carmelo Bonanno, ADA President said this was a good investment in our children's future.

"We know that a child's oral health is a good predictor for the future so it is critical that we embed good oral health habits at an early age. Getting children to visit the dentist regularly, through schemes such as the Child Dental Benefits Schedule is critical to halting the level of decay we see in children currently".

Tooth decay in children is still an issue in Australia. 34.3 per cent of Australian children aged 5-6 years have experienced decay in their baby teeth and among 6-14-year olds, 23.5 per cent have experienced decay in their adult teeth. Three out of four children and young people are consuming too much sugar with sugar sweetened beverages being the major factor.

"We are seeing too many children of a young age needing admission to hospital to have teeth extracted under anaesthetic so its really important that we get the message to parents. Watch how much sugar your kids are having and find time to get them to the dentist for a check- up regularly," added Dr Bonanno.

The ADA does have concerns about the future of the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) which provides a commonwealth contribution to states to help fund public dental services. While it wasn't expected that the NPA would feature in this budget, the ADA urges the commonwealth government to finalise an agreement with states and to ensure certainty around the commonwealth contribution.

### Interviews available with: Dr Carmelo Bonanno, President

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