



April 29, 2019

NRHA welcomes oral health promise

The National Rural Health Alliance has welcomed the ALP's announcement of a \$2.4 billion Pensioner Dental Plan – providing access to free dental oral health care to 3 million older Australians.

Alliance CEO, Mark Diamond, said the move would provide relief to older people in rural communities who did not have access to such services.

Mr Diamond said access to oral health services was vital in rural areas where a maldistribution of dentists made it especially difficult for people to visit a dentist.

“This is a good announcement for the general community and rural communities in particular,” Mr Diamond said.

“If you receive an Age Pension or hold a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, this Pensioner Dental Plan will provide \$1,000 worth of free essential dental care every two years – this will be covered by Medicare.

“This will improve the quality of life for more than 3 million older Australians with oral health issues.

“More than 185,000 older Australians a year can't get the dental care they need because of cost. This will improve the access to these services.”

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