

# Joint Submission to the Select Committee on Provision of and Access to Dental Care



This is an Easy Read version of a **submission** by



- Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO)
- Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA)
- Down Syndrome Australia
- Inclusion Australia



A submission is when we write to the Government and tell them what we think.

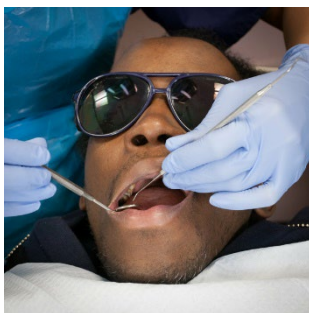


The submission was for the Inquiry into the Provision of and Access to Dental Services in Australia.



The Inquiry looked at

- How people use **dental services**
- What issues stop people getting the dental care they need.



Dental services are things you get done at the dentist such as

- Check-ups
- Fillings
- Braces



## What did we say



We told the Government about the issues people with disability have with getting dental care.



People with a disability are more likely to have dental problems like

- Tooth pain
- Broken or lost teeth
- Gum disease



Dental problems can lead to other health problems such as diabetes and heart disease.



Having dental problems can also make people depressed and feel less confident.



This can make it harder for them to go to work and take part in their community.



People with disability in Australia see the dentist less often than most people.



This is because

- it costs a lot to see the dentist
- it can be hard to get to the dentist
- it can be a long wait to get an appointment.



If a person cannot go to the dentist often enough it can make their dental problems worse over time.



Most dentists are not trained on how to work with patients with disability.



There are 4.4 million Australians with disability but only 24 special needs dentists.



There is also not much information about dental care of people with disability in Australia.



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This makes it hard to find out what the problems are and how to fix them.



People with disability and their families told us going to the dentist can be frustrating because



- information about dental care and treatments is not accessible

- dentists do not know how to communicate with people with complex communication needs



- dentists often do not understand disability

- people with disability are not supported to make their own decisions at the dentist.

## What we want



We want the Government to start collecting information about people with disability who get dental care.



Things like

- How many people with disability go to the dentist
- How often they see the dentist
- What dental treatments they get done
- What their experience at the dentist was like.



This information will help us to better understand what problems people with disability have with dental care.

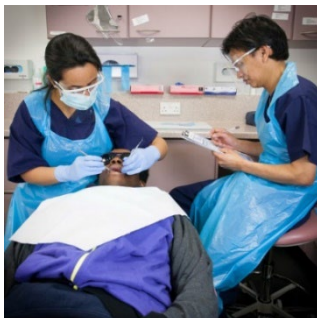




We want the Government to make it easier for people with disability to afford going to the dentist.



One way to do this is by making dental care free for people with disability on **Medicare.**

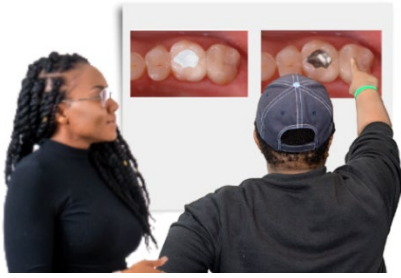


We want the Government to spend more money on training dentists how to work with patients with disability.



We want to make sure people with disability can get accessible information about dental care.

For example information in Plain English and Easy Read.



We want to make sure people with disability are supported to make their own decisions about dental care.



You can read the big version of our submission [here](#).