Dental Services in WA

Dental services are not usually covered by Medicare, so the majority of dental treatment is carried out by private general dental practitioners or private specialist dental practitioners. Specialist Dental services are available from Paediatric Dentists for very young children. Dental Health Services provides a number of subsidised dental services for pensioners and concession card holders subject to a means test, and requiring a co-payment.

Adult Dental Services

Dental Health Services provides subsidised dental care via the following programs:

- Government Clinics located in the metropolitan area and a number of country locations. Eligible patients requiring general (not emergency) dental care will be placed on a Public Dental Clinic waiting list. Please contact the clinic for details on waiting times. Patients removed from the clinic's waiting list will be advised by mail.

- Government Subsidised Oral Health Care Schemes. Patients may be able to access general dental care via a Private Dental Clinic that participates in these schemes:

  - Country Patients' Dental Subsidy Scheme provides financial assistance towards the cost of dental care for the financially disadvantaged, in country towns where participating private dental practices are located and there is no access to a Government dental clinic.

  - Metropolitan Patients' Dental Subsidy Scheme provides financial assistance towards the cost of dental care for the financially disadvantaged, in the metropolitan area with participating private practitioners. Please contact your closest Public Dental Clinic for information on whether this option is presently available.

- A Domiciliary Unit provides dental care for housebound patients. Dental care is also provided for special groups and institutionalised people. Clinics operate at the Disability Services Commission, Graylands Selby-Lemnos, Royal Perth Hospital and in various correctional institutions.

- An Aged Care Dental Program provides oral health services to the residents of registered Aged Care Facilities. Residents are eligible to receive an annual free dental examination and a care plan which details daily oral hygiene and preventive needs. Further treatment needs are advised and referral to an appropriate provider given (Government programs for eligible residents or private practice for others).
• In those remote locations where Dental Health Services is the sole health provider, all patients are able to access dental care at the Public Dental Clinic. However, those patients not eligible for subsidised care are required to pay the full fee.

For more information please call 9313 0555, or contact your nearest Public Dental Clinic. Those requiring interpreter services should refer to the Dental Health Services Interpreter Service information.

School Dental Service

The School Dental Service provides free general dental care to school children throughout the state, ranging from pre-primary through to Year 11 and to Year 12 in remote locations.

Care is provided by dental therapists under the supervision of dental officers from fixed and mobile clinics located at schools throughout the state.

The School Dental Service is primarily a public dental health program, with emphasis on prevention and education. The treatment is limited to general practice care and there are a number of exclusions, e.g. specialist services and general anaesthesia facilities. Treatment outside the scope of the School Dental Service is referred to other providers and any costs are the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

Consent of a parent or guardian (by completing a consent form) is a lawful requirement before a child can be treated. However, consent is not required before an examination.

Contact your closest School Dental Therapy Centre or Dental Health Services on 9313 0555 for further information. Those requiring interpreter services should refer to the Dental Health Services Interpreter Service information.