

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000195

OUTCOME: 13 - Acute Care

Topic: Child Dental Benefits Scheme

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas Jan

Question:

Please provide a copy of the information that was sent to families informing them of the Grow Up Smiling, or referred to now as, the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

Answer:

A template of the letter sent to inform families about their children's eligibility for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule is attached.

If not delivered return to PO Box 1001
TUGGERANONG GREENWAY DC ACT 2901



Australian Government
Department of Health

January 2014

Dear

**Children in your family are eligible for dental benefits under the
Child Dental Benefits Schedule**

Children in your family are eligible throughout 2014 for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, a new dental program which replaces the Medicare Teen Dental Plan. The Child Dental Benefits Schedule provides up to \$1,000 in benefits for basic dental services, capped over two consecutive calendar years.

A child is eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule if he or she is aged between 2-17 years old for at least one day in the calendar year, is eligible for Medicare and is part of a family that receives a relevant Australian government payment such as Family Tax Benefit Part A. The child(ren) remain eligible all year, even if the payment that made them eligible stops this year or if they turn 18 this year.

Eligible child(ren) and benefit cap amount(s)

Listed below is/are the eligible child(ren) in your family and each child's benefit cap amount.

Full name	Benefit cap amount*
	\$1000.00
	\$1000.00
	\$1000.00

* A child's benefit cap amount starts the year they first receive a dental service.

You can use the full benefit cap of \$1,000 for each child in the first year. If the child does not use it all, you can use what is left in the second year if the child is still eligible. Any balance remaining at the end of the two year period cannot be used to fund services that are provided outside that two year period. A child's benefit cap can only be used for eligible services provided to that child.

Eligible services

The Child Dental Benefits Schedule provides individual benefits for a range of services including examinations, x-rays, cleaning, fissure sealing, fillings, root canals and extractions. Benefits are not available for orthodontic or cosmetic dental work and cannot be paid for any services provided in a hospital.

What you need to do

A benefit can only be paid for a dental service if the child has a balance remaining in his or her benefit cap. Before making an appointment, you can easily check your child's eligibility and remaining benefit cap amount, or view other family Medicare information, by accessing Medicare services through your myGov account at my.gov.au. If you do not have a myGov account, you will need to create one first and then link it to Medicare.

Alternatively, you may phone 132 011 (call charges may apply — calls from mobile phones may be charged at a higher rate). You will need to have your child's Medicare card details with you to access this service. Your dentist can also check your child's eligibility and remaining benefit cap amount by contacting the Australian Government Department of Human Services.

When you make the appointment with either a private dentist or a state or territory public dental clinic let them know that you will be using the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

At the appointment, the dentist is required to discuss your child(ren)'s treatment and its costs with the parent/guardian, or your child depending on his or her age, and obtain consent before treatment is provided. This consent will need to be confirmed by signing a form provided by the dentist.

Public dental clinics must bulk bill under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, which means the benefit available under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule covers the cost of the service.

Private dentists may charge a fee that exceeds the benefit available for a service. If they do, you will have to pay the difference in cost. You cannot claim a benefit from both a private health insurer and the Child Dental Benefits Schedule for the same dental service. More information is at: humanservices.gov.au/childdental

Shared Care arrangements

If your child(ren) is/are in equal shared care arrangements, each parent or carer/guardian will receive a letter. Whilst either parent or carer can organise dental services for each child, that child's total benefit cap of \$1000 cannot be exceeded.

Receiving your Medicare letters online

You can now access some of your Medicare letters online through your myGov Inbox. In future, you will also be able to receive letters about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule from your Inbox.

Updating your family details

If your circumstances have changed and you need to update your family details, you can do this by accessing your Centrelink services through your myGov account at my.gov.au. You will need to link your myGov account to Centrelink first.

More information

For more information on the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, go to humanservices.gov.au/childdental

