

Additional information from the Australian Dental Industry Association

I would like to take this opportunity to provide further evidence that related to my attendance at the hearing.

... I indicated during the hearing that the figure of \$219.4 to treat an additional 360,000 eligible adults in the public oral health services, that Senator Payman quoted from the “Health Protection, Preventive Health and Sport 2023-24 Budget media release” (attached and highlighted on the second page) was an inaccurate representation of the dollar amount that was actually budgeted. Budget Paper 2 (attached) shows on page 138 (page 152 of the pdf document) the correct and accurate budgeting – which in the notes below the table identifies that it is an amount over two years (in the four year projection) comprising:

- \$107.8 million for Public Dental Services for Adults funding agreement to 30 June 2025, provided to the States and Territories to contribute to public oral health services for adults (this amount has not increased over past years). Over two years this sums to \$215.6 million
- \$3 million over 3 years for the Developmental work to support dental funding reform (costing study & NMDS)
- \$0.8 million in 2023-24 for the National Dental Care Survey. This amount was alluded to on the same page of Budget Paper 2 (page 138 or page 152 of the pdf document) in the explanation highlighted under the table. However, the figure of \$0.8 million was derived from the Table 1 included in Submission 18 – Dept of Health and Aged Care (page 2).

These three amounts sum to the \$219.4 million that was quoted in the Budget Release. So, in fact, there was no additional amount provided to service an additional 360,000 eligible adults within the public oral health services within the 2023-24 budget.

I’m sure you are already completely on top of this – but just thought that as I had discussed it, I would provide the evidence behind my statements.

If you require any further clarity, please don’t hesitate to ask.

With kind regards

Sarah

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