

Ref: M23/5050

Senator Jordon Steele-John  
Chair  
Select Committee into the provision of and access to dental services in Australia  
dental.services.sen@aph.gov.au

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**Request for information on eligibility for public dental services**

Dear Senator



Thank you for writing on behalf of the Senate Select Committee into the provision of and access to dental services in Australia about the eligibility criteria for public dental services in NSW.

There is no universal access to dental services in Australia. NSW Health provides free general dental care to children (0-18 years) with a Medicare card, and to eligible adults who hold an Australian Government Concession Card (Seniors Health Card, Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card). NSW Health does not charge co-payments for general dental care.

NSW Health has had eligibility criteria for accessing public dental services for at least the last 30 years. The eligibility policy is reviewed in line with the policy review requirements set out in the *NSW Health Policies and Other Policy Documents* policy directive (PD2022\_047). The current *Eligibility of Persons for Public Oral Health Care in NSW* policy directive (PD2017\_017) can be accessed at [www1.health.nsw.gov.au/PDS/Pages/doc.aspx?dn=PD2017\\_027](http://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/PDS/Pages/doc.aspx?dn=PD2017_027). This policy directive is under review.

Thank you again for writing. For more information, please contact Graeme Liston, Executive Director, Centre for Oral Health Strategy, Ministry of Health, at [graeme.liston@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:graeme.liston@health.nsw.gov.au) or on 0427 658 716.

Yours sincerely

**Ryan Park MP**  
Minister for Health  
Minister for Regional Health  
Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast