

Oral Health for Older People

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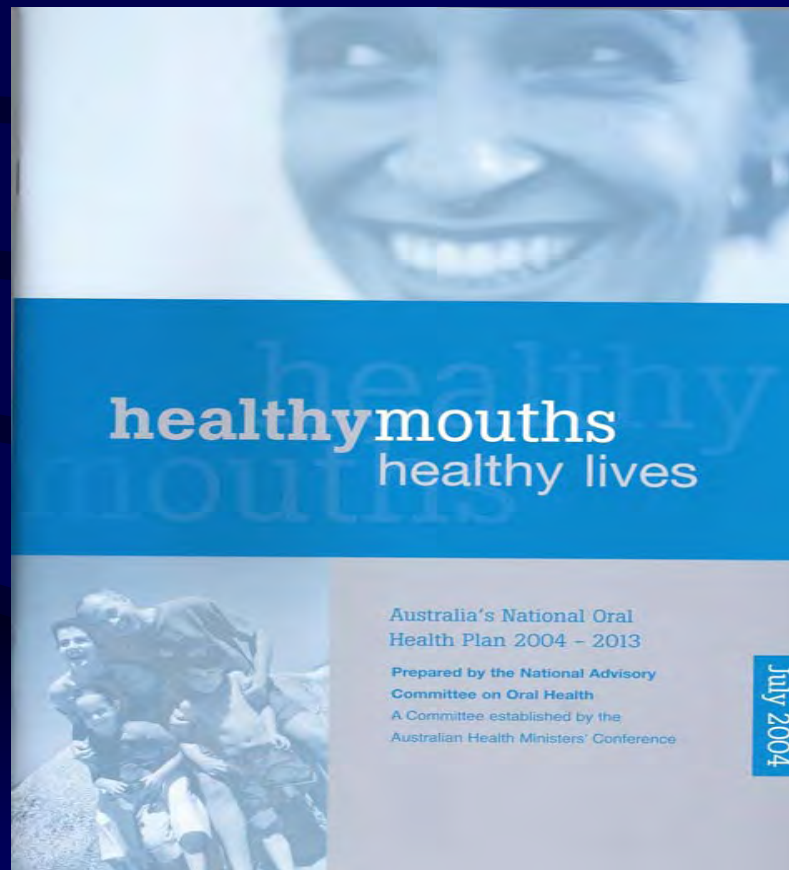
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SA Dental Service

- Provides public dental services across SA, reports to Central Northern
- School Dental Service
- Adelaide Dental Hospital
- Community Dental Service
- Annual budget \$40 m
- Eligibility, co-payments, waiting lists.

2004 Australia's National Oral Health Plan



National Oral Health Plan...

In simple terms provides oral health with..

- Status as a national document endorsed by Health Ministers
- Clear and realistic strategies
- Wealth of evidence based research & information
- Calls for oral health to be integrated – policy and care

National Oral Health Plan

- The Plan outlines 7 National Action Plans
- Action Area 3 for Older People
- Short term strategies – assessments, at home support, entry assessments ...
- Medium term – health promotion, regulations, workforce
- Long term – build capacity

1990's Research

- Adelaide University --AIHW Dental Statistics Research Unit, & Australian Research Centre on Population Oral Health
- The Adelaide Dental Study of Nursing Homes. JM Chalmers et al 98 & 99 follow up research.
- Assoc Prof Jane Chalmers now at University of Iowa

Importance of Oral Health

Oral health is important to maintain quality of life

Talk comfortably, stay pain free, enjoy eating, maintain hygiene habits

Oral health is important for medical reasons

Associations:

Cardiovascular disease.

Stroke/ cerebrovascular disease.

Aspiration pneumonia.

Diabetes.

Nutritional deficiencies.

2000's National Action

Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council
report

National planning for oral health improvement
prepared by national committee chaired by SA.

National Advisory Committee on Oral Health est.
2001 – also SA based.

How did we move the National Plan forward?

- Two demonstration projects in South Australia, locked into identified health assessments for older people both in the community and in residential care.
- Oral health as an “add on” not ideal, but practical and likely to succeed.
- Working party, then Steering Committee with multi-sector representation to oversee

2003

Project 1 - Community Based

Integration of an oral health assessment into the general health assessment of older people.

- Development of new networks GPs – Dental
- New oral health assessment tool & health promotion information.
- Over 2,000 integrated assessments done with 1/3 requiring dental treatment.
- Rigorously evaluated by University of Adelaide.
- Results – profound improvements in quality of life and emotional well-being and in nominated own goals.

Outcomes of Community Project

- Increasing awareness oral health issues & strengthening medical & dental networks
- Evaluation links oral & general (emotional) health
- Evaluation results have potential to inform funding/ planning
- Established new oral health assessment tool

The Community Assessment Tool

Tear off this original and send to SA Dental Service.

To: SA Dental Service, Frome Road, Adelaide SA 5000

This patient has answered the oral health assessment questions and indicated problems with the following areas: **A 2901**

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Q1: Own teeth? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | Q2: Pain chewing? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | Q3: Treatment needed? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Q4: Avoided laughing? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | Q5: Interrupt meals? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | Q6: Difficulty relaxing? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

In the opinion of the health assessor, a dental visit would be beneficial Yes No

Any comments

.....

.....

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms

Patient (Name)

Address

Age Phone

Aboriginal / Torres Strait Islander Current Smoker

Yes No Yes No

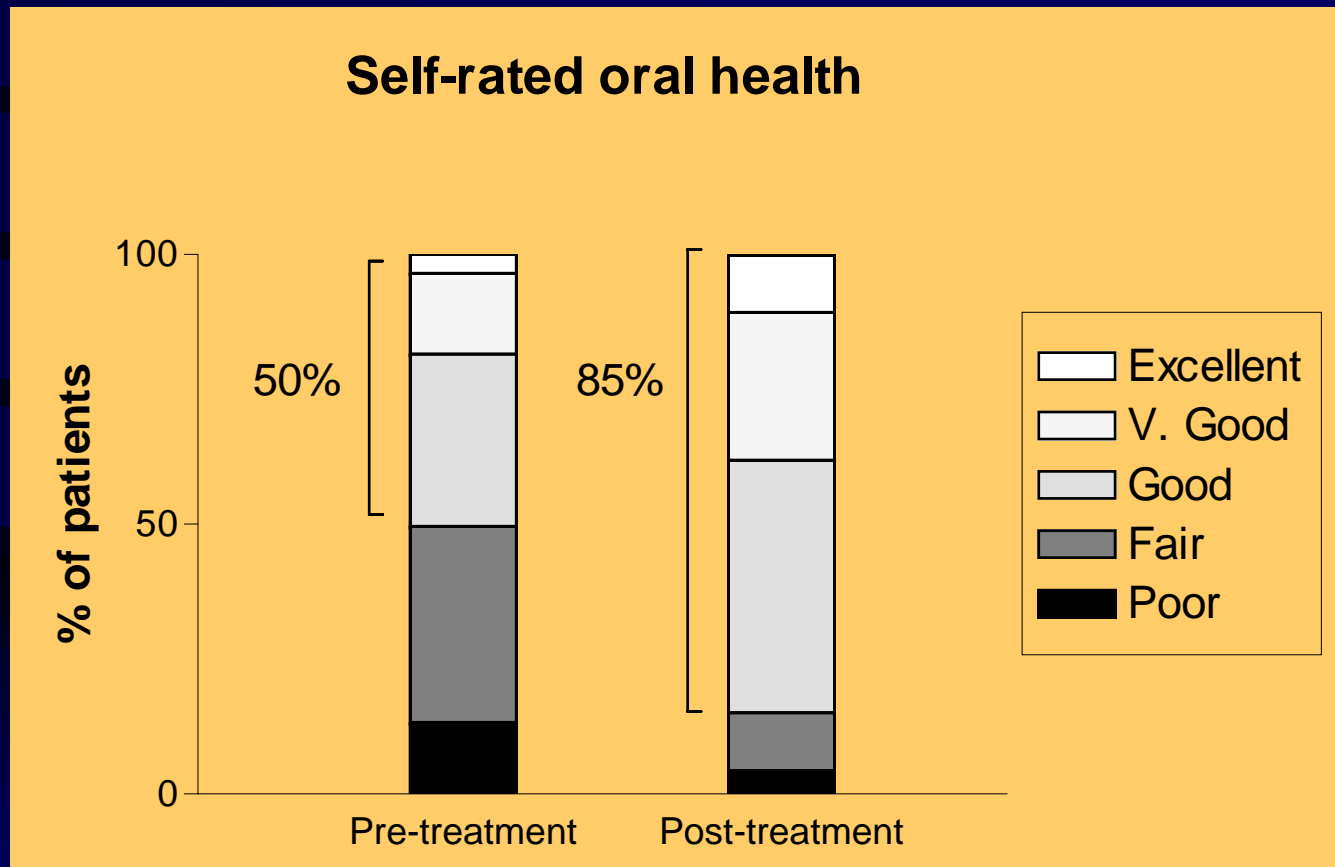
Patient's Consent

I have received an explanation about the SA Dental Service project and received a brochure. I am happy for you to contact me about dental care.

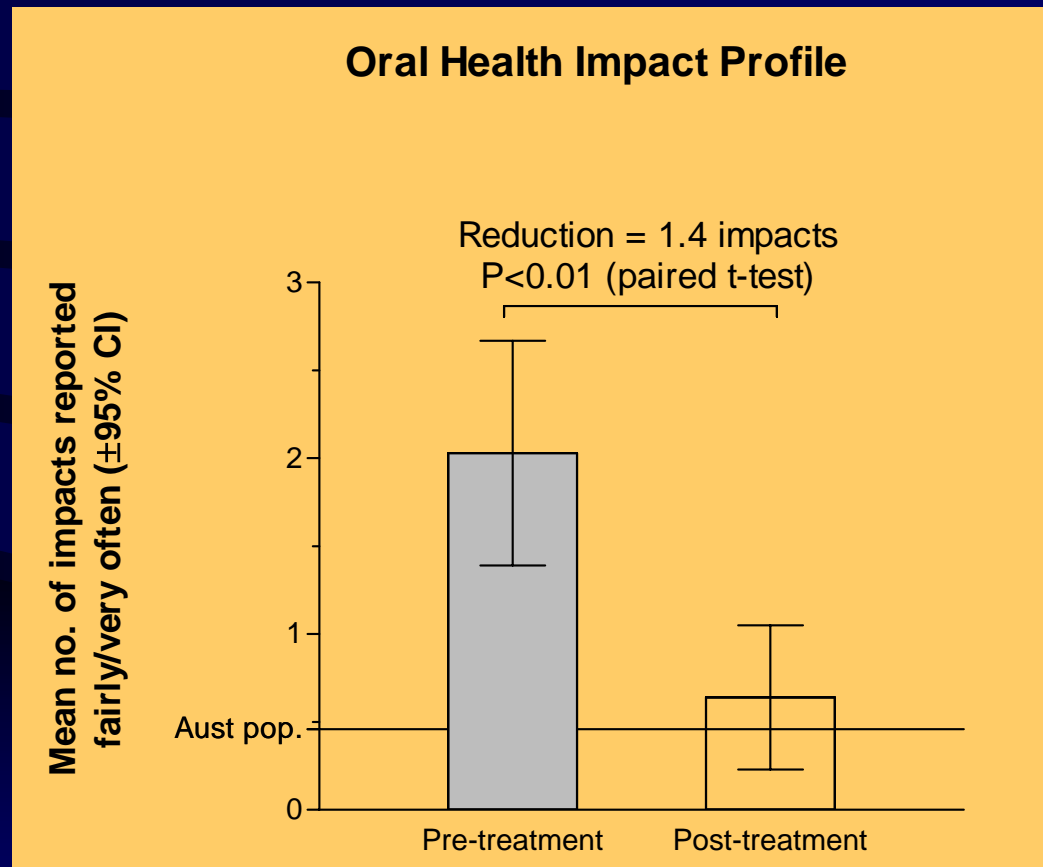
Signature of patient Date/...../.....

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Health Assessment done by | SA Dental Service Use Only |
| Date of Assessment:/...../..... | |
| Patient's G.P. Dr | |

2005 Results from Community Project



Improvement in oral health



Goal attainment – Community Project

Categories of pre-treatment goals nominated by patients*

| Category <u>of goal</u> | % patients reporting <u>goal</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Better chewing/eating | 39% |
| New/better dentures | 17% |
| Less pain/discomfort | 16% |
| Better appearance | 10% |
| Other goals | 18% |

Community project – bottom line

Achieved those gains within an existing general health assessment:

- 6 questions by non-dental health assessors
- 5 mins extra in a 90 mins general health assessment
- minimal resource cost

Oral Health issues in residential care

- Potential for rapid deterioration of oral health
- Residents have cognitive & mobility problems
- Limited availability of SA Dental Service
Domiciliary Care dental services
- Private dentists may be available but fees are a barrier to many
- Without regular dental treatment problems quickly become medical emergencies.

2003 Residential Care Project

Oral health care provision in residential care facilities

Two major resources for private sector

SA Dental Service reimburses private dental fees through a new Aged Care Scheme (eg patient pays approx 10% cost of dentures).

Provision & maintenance of portable equipment

Residential Project

Two levels of operation

- All residents assessed and treated (**Alwyndor Aged Care**)
- Or Supporting previous relationships between dentists & facilities
- Operational October 2003
- Over 500 assessed and treated to date – funding not secured

Residential Project

Demonstrate the potential to influence quality of life:

- Dental teams
- Residents and their families
- Residential aged care managers and carers
- Government funding bodies

.....To pave the way for a formalised integration of an oral health assessment as part of entry to residential aged care facilities

2005 Outcomes Residential Project

- Partnership of private and public dental sectors
- Raising awareness in aged & dental sectors
- Identification of best practice models
Quantifying oral health needs of residents
- Protocols for dental treatment
www.sadental.sa.gov.au
- Anecdotal evidence about changes to residents very powerful
- Aged care sector have become significant advocates for oral health in older people

2005

Commonwealth Department Health & Ageing
Request for Tender to develop

“Project to develop an oral health assessment tool kit for General Practitioners to utilise when undertaking a comprehensive medical assessment in residential aged care facilities. “

- To integrate oral health with medical assessment & management.
- Assess & identify oral health needs
- Care strategies GPs can initiate
- When to call expert advice & treatment

Medicare Plus includes dental services – July 2004

2005 Residential OHAT (oral health assessment tool)

South Australian team developing tool kit

- University of Adelaide (ARCPOH)
- SA Dental Service
- Alzheimer's Australia
- Joanna Briggs Institute
- Commenced late June, to be complete this year.
- Tool kit consists of CD includes video & forms, resource manual and pocket guide

Current Oral Health Advice

Development underway of an Oral Health Assessment Tool Kit as part of CMA – 2005.

Dentists in residential aged care

SA Dental Service Domiciliary Care - Somerton Park & Salisbury – waiting lists apply.

Some private dental teams funded through project, very limited.

Private dentists more generally available for those privately insured or able to pay – contact ADA SA Branch.

Medicare Plus arrangements should be beneficial – refer ADA SA Branch.

Use our protocols for Better Practice.

2006 and beyond

- Accepted community oral health assessment tool
- New residential oral health tool kit
- Projects to inform future services, applying for further funding
- Dental workforce shortages and issues
- Inclusion of aged issues in dental training curriculums
- Intensifying dental, medical & aged networks.