

Join the fight for fair oral health for seniors and Forgotten Australians

No one should suffer pain or embarrassment because they cannot afford to see a dentist. AFA keeps pushing for dental care on Medicare because dignity matters.

The inclusion of dental treatment under Medicare for all seniors is long overdue. By influencing public policy and fostering widespread community support we can make it happen.

Cost of dental care causing delays in treatment
Many ageing Forgotten Australians / Care Leavers are postponing essential dental visits because of financial constraints. This delay often results in not only worsening oral health, but also contributes to broader health complications. Without regular check-ups and timely treatment, minor dental issues escalate into more serious problems, increasing discomfort and impacting overall wellbeing.

It is well documented that poor childhood dental care contributes to lifelong oral health issues and considering the well-documented neglect and lack of medical attention many Forgotten Australians/Care Leavers experienced in institutions, they are at elevated risk for untreated dental diseases.

What are the facts?

Many older people, particularly Forgotten Australians, encounter major obstacles in accessing oral health services, which adversely impacts their overall wellbeing. Here is the reality:

- Seniors delay dental visits due to the cost
- Oral health problems can lead to serious medical issues
- Seniors have an average of 14 missing teeth
- One in four avoid certain foods because of dental pain
- Some are forced to wait up to five years for public dental care

Our call for a dental program for seniors is backed by the Australian Greens, Dr Monique Ryan (Member for Kooyong) and Dr Mike Freedlander (Member for Macarthur)



Personal testimonies

“I’m missing many bottom teeth,” says Mary, “and others are crooked and rotten. Raised in an orphanage in the 1960s, I don’t even remember having toothpaste.”

“I had to wait a whole year before they gave me my dentures,” says Chrissy. “Going out in public was embarrassing; it was really hard and demeaning.”



What needs to change?

- Medicare should cover dental care for seniors
- This will remove financial barriers, prevent pain and protect dignity

Add your voice

- Email or write to your local MP and demand dental care under Medicare
- You can find your MP here: aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members
- Details will be added to the AFA website shortly www.forgottenaustralians.org.au – including a template letter to send to your local member of parliament
- Flyers about the campaign will be available at Find & Connect Services in the coming weeks