



S Y N S T R A T

GOVERNMENT DENTAL SCHEME ANNOUNCEMENT (RECYCLING DENTAL FUNDING)

The federal government announcement of a \$4.1 billion scheme actually refers to multi-year funding. The scheme involves children 2 to 18 being able to access \$1,000 of dental care, subject to means test, under Medicare every two years. This element of it will cost \$2.7 billion over six years.

There is also a \$1.3 billion multi-year spend to provide treatment for low income adults in state government conducted clinics.

The announcement also refers to \$225 million to be spent improving dental care services in rural and regional areas. This appears to be a repeat of an earlier budget announcement.

To pay for this scheme, the government will next month axe the \$1 billion a year Medicare chronic disease dental scheme. The teen dental scheme which provided an annual \$160 voucher for a general check-up for teens is also expected to be scrapped.

After we strip away the spin, the government is cutting a \$1 billion a year scheme, plus some existing teen spending and replacing it with \$4.1 billion over six year scheme. It is also re-announcing its earlier rural dental assistance program.

I recall that an ADA estimate was that a universal dental scheme would cost \$13 billion per year. We remain of the opinion that that is unaffordable.

Governments of all political persuasions are good at recycling money and announcing it as though it is new spending.

Graham Middleton

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- Buying and Selling General & Specialist Dental Practices, and
- 50 Rules for Success as a Dentist,

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Dental Practice Valuation

Enquiries concerning dental practice valuation are welcome, please contact Graham Middleton or David Collins at Synstrat 03 9843 7777 or email valuations@synstrat.com.au