



8 March 2013

The Hon David Davis  
Minister for Health

Dear Minister

Thank you for meeting with Gordon Burt (ADAVB President) and myself on 1 March 2013 to discuss current dental policy issues. I am writing to confirm the outcomes of this meeting, which are outlined below.

### **Aged Care**

A working group is to be established to guide the development of an aged care pilot project (based on a proposal included in recent ADAVB budget submissions). Representatives from the Department, DHSV and the ADAVB will be invited to participate in the working group. The ADAVB would like to suggest that Associate Professor Matthew Hopcraft, the ADAVB's immediate past President, and Ms Kate Jameson, the ADAVB's Policy and Research Officer, be invited to participate in the working group. We look forward to the establishment of this working group.

### **Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA)**

ADAVB has instructed ProcessHR, appointed to represent ADAVB members in EBA negotiations, to investigate non-EBA benefits and their impact on the estimated gap in payments between jurisdictions. ProcessHR have been asked to take any findings into account when performing comparisons between State and Territory agreements.

### **Changes to Commonwealth dental schemes**

As discussed at our meeting, there are a number of groups that may be disadvantaged by eligibility requirements under the new Commonwealth dental schemes. These include 18 year olds that cannot access treatment because they are not eligible under the new child dental scheme - Growing up Smiling (GUS) and are also not eligible under the Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate Scheme (CLCPS).

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The new child scheme also has the potential to greatly disadvantage children with special needs. GUS only includes basic services, including a check-up, scale and clean and fissure sealants up to the value of \$1,000. This will not cover the amount of dental treatment generally required by these special needs patients.

The new adult dental scheme may also disadvantage the 'working poor' – those who fall just short of meeting the eligibility criteria for a Health Care Card. These people are in a constant struggle to afford dental treatment for themselves and their families. It may also disadvantage those with a chronic disease who don't hold a Health Care Card.

**Inquiry into the performance of the Australian Health Practitioners  
Regulation Agency (AHPRA)**

I have attached the ADAVB submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the performance of AHPRA, which details our concerns in relation to patterns of notifications in Victoria (see Attachment A).

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on (03) 8825 4600.

Yours sincerely



Garry Pearson  
**Chief Executive Officer**

cc. Ms Maree Gyatt, Director of Integrated Care, Victorian Department of Health

**Encl.**