



VICTORIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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State Government not transparent with dental waiting lists

The Victorian Government seems to be deliberating keeping the public in the dark about the length of dental waiting lists, the Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch said today.

The Branch's President, Dr Anne Stewart, said that the waiting list data currently available from the Government is more than 12 months old.

"With Victorians going to the polls on 27 November, they deserve to have accurate and current dental waiting list data and a clear policy platform that supports improved access to dental care," she said.

Dental waiting list information on the Government's Your hospitals website* is for June last year. The Health Department moved from making dental waiting list information available quarterly, to half-yearly and now appears to be deliberately not updating the information.

Dr Stewart said the lack of any dental health policies from the major parties in the recent Federal election means that Victorians eligible for publicly funded care will depend on limited funding provided by the State Government. That funding is for 300,000 treatments – however about 1.5 million Victorians are eligible for public dental treatment.

"The Government is only aiming to treat one-in-five of the people who are entitled to treatment," she said. "The Government's waiting time for treatment target is 23 months – this is unacceptable."

The Victorian Oral Health Alliance, since 2005, has provided a more user-friendly version of the dental waiting list data, along with graphs showing trends in waiting times, on its website www.voha.org

* <http://serviceforip.webcentral.com.au/yourhospitals/dental.asp>

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