

Member Update

Provider Numbers for Oral Health Practitioners

31 March 2022

Services Australia and Department of Health

The Department of Health continues to work towards implementing the policy change to allow dental hygienists, dental therapists and oral health therapists to apply for a provider number from Services Australia. This will enable you to claim directly for services provided under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS). The CDBS services you can claim will be dependent on what registration you hold with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

The planned commencement date of this change remains 1 July 2022. From 20 June 2022, you will be able to apply to Services Australia for a provider number. As the commencement date approaches, further information will be provided to you on the changes and the Services Australia process to apply for a provider number.

Please note, applying for an individual provider number is optional. If you are currently billing under a dentist's provider number for the CDBS, you can continue with these arrangements after 1 July 2022.

Information on how to apply for a Medicare provider number is available in resources on the [Services Australia website](#). There are also training resources [here](#) on compliance and auditing requirements under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

Department of Veterans Affairs Dental Program

The Department of Veterans Affairs has informed that there is no immediate plan to provide dental hygienists, dental therapists and oral health therapists direct access to the DVA Dental Program via the new provider numbers. The DVA is currently undertaking a large-scale review and is considering the implications of the important role of our profession play in the oral health care of the DVA community. We are continuing discussions with DVA and will provide further evidence and consultation to advocate for our inclusion in this scheme. We will keep members update of any progress.

Private Health Insurance

ADOHTA and DHAA have been in ongoing discussion with individual private health funds and their peak body, Private Healthcare Australia. A number of health funds have confirmed their plans to accept the new provider numbers when they become available on 1 July. The recognition of Medicare provider numbers by private insurers is subject to decisions by individual fund and you will receive notification from the funds directly.

Provider Number Expert Advisory Group

ADOHTA and DHAA have set up a joint expert advisory group to provide advice and plan appropriate education sessions and build information resources to support members.

We will continue to update members as further information becomes available over coming months.

With warm regards,



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President
Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists
Association



Associate Professor Carol Tran
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