



Media Release

9 FEBRUARY 2018

Budget disappointment for oral health

The National Oral Health Alliance (NOHA)¹ was very disappointed with the lack of investment in the Commonwealth Budget for oral health.

Spokesperson for the Alliance, Dr Chris Bourke, noted “NOHA is very concerned with the continued refusal by the Commonwealth Government to make oral health a priority”.

“Much more could have been done including restoring the \$155 million that has previously been cut out of the National Partnership Agreements for public dental care; effective promotion of the Child Dental Benefit Scheme that continues to be underutilised by those who need it most; more fluoridation of water supplies in rural and remote townships; and support to increase dental practitioner numbers, and improve workforce mix, in rural and remote Australia.”

“Whilst the modest support for dental outreach by the Royal Flying Doctor Service is welcomed this is simply insufficient to meet the demand in remote communities.”

NOHA is also frustrated dental practitioners were specifically excluded from the Workforce Incentive Program announced in the Budget. “The shortages of dental practitioners in rural and remote Australia are well known, and yet the Government has deliberately excluded oral health from this new program”.

Contact: Chris Bourke, Spokesperson for NOHA, 0418 869 443 www.oralhealth.asn.au

¹ The National Oral Health Alliance (NOHA) seeks to improve the oral health of all Australians by the collaboration of consumer, dental and general health member organisations to support action by governments