



## Media Release

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### More needed for oral health

The National Oral Health Alliance (NOHA) calls for more support for improving oral health from political parties in the lead up to the Federal election.

‘Improving the oral health of all Australians, and especially those most in need, requires two immediate priorities from whichever party forms government after the next federal election’ says NOHA spokesperson Dr Chris Bourke.

‘Firstly, adult public dental services need consistent and secure funding to enable public services to do their job of delivering the dental care needed to the most vulnerable. An immediate boost of \$500 million per year from the Australian government is required.

‘The recent Grattan Institute report on oral health highlighted the chronic underfunding of public dental services and the toll suffered by many of the poorest in our community. We know that over 30% of Australian adults have untreated tooth decay and that oral conditions are the third-highest reason for preventable hospital admissions.

‘Secondly, 3 million Australians do not have access to fluoridated water. The Commonwealth needs to step in and work with water supply authorities to increase fluoridation. The benefit of fluoridation in preventing tooth decay is backed by significant evidence, and has been for over 50 years.

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#### NOHA members

Australian Council of Social Service,	Consumers Health Forum
Australian Dental Association	Council on the Ageing
Australian Dental & Oral Health Therapists Association	Dental Hygienists' Association of Australia
Australian Dental Prosthetists Association	National Rural Health Alliance
Australian Health Care Reform Alliance	Public Health Association of Australia
Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association	Royal Flying Doctors Service