



Australian Government
Medicare Australia

dental
benefits schedule

***Medicare
Teen Dental Plan—2010***

For eligible teenagers aged 12–17 years

www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

What is the Medicare Teen Dental Plan?

The Australian Government introduced the Medicare Teen Dental Plan to help with the cost of an annual preventative dental check for eligible teenagers aged 12–17 years.

Who is eligible under the Medicare Teen Dental Plan?

If you are a teenager

- aged 12–17 years:
 - receiving ABSTUDY, Carer Payment, Disability Support Pension, Parenting Payment, Special Benefit, Youth Allowance; or
 - whose family/carer/guardian receives Family Tax Benefit Part A (FTB-A), or Parenting Payment, or the Double Orphan Pension for the teenager; or
 - whose partner receives FTB-A or Parenting Payment; or
 - 16 or older and receiving financial assistance under the Veterans' Children Education Scheme (VCES) or the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme (MRCAETS) from the Department of Veterans' Affairs
- eligible for Medicare

you will be considered eligible under the Medicare Teen Dental Plan and able to receive a preventative dental check.

How will I be advised of my eligibility?

A letter and voucher advising of a teenager's eligibility for a preventative dental check will be sent to either the teenager, family or carer receiving the government payment. If the teenager is in equal shared care arrangements, a letter and voucher will be sent to each parent or carer.

What is the voucher for?

The voucher entitles you to claim a benefit from Medicare Australia up to the amount of \$157.00[†] per year, once you have seen your dentist and had a preventative dental check.

Vouchers are only valid for the person named on the voucher and cannot be transferred to another person. The voucher must be used within the calendar year it is issued.

What should I do if I didn't get a voucher?

If you believe you are eligible and have not received a voucher, or you have lost it, call **132 011*** or visit your local Medicare office.

What is a preventative dental check?

A preventative dental check must consist of an oral examination and if necessary, your dentist may also:

- take x-rays
- provide a scale and clean
- provide a fluoride treatment
- give you oral hygiene instructions
- provide dietary advice
- seal pits or cracks in a tooth (fissure sealing).

All these services are included and can be performed over a number of days. You cannot be billed separately for the services or before your treatment is completed.

How do I go about having a preventative dental check?

Once you have received your voucher the following steps will help you receive your benefit.

Step 1—make an appointment with a dentist

When making an appointment with the dentist, you will need to check:

- that the dentist will provide a preventative dental check under the Medicare Teen Dental Plan
- if you will be expected to pay anything up-front and if so, will it be more than the \$157.00 dental benefit claimable from Medicare Australia.

Alternatively, if you are eligible for public dental services, you can call your nearest public dental clinic (including school-based clinics) to check if they are providing preventative dental checks.

Step 2—have your preventative dental check

You need to take your voucher to the dentist when you have your preventative dental check.

Step 3—claiming for your preventative dental check

After your preventative dental check, the dentist will bill you in one of three ways.

1. The dentist will bulk bill the service by asking you to sign an *Assignment of benefit* form—this lets the dentist claim directly from Medicare Australia.
2. The dentist will ask you to pay in full for the service. You then claim your benefit by taking your account/receipt to your local Medicare office or sending your account/receipt, along with a completed *Medicare Teen Dental Plan claim* form, to Medicare Australia.
3. The dentist will give you an unpaid account. You then take your account to your local Medicare office or send it to Medicare Australia. We will send you a cheque payable to the dentist for the benefit amount. You must take the cheque to your dentist along with any outstanding balance you owe.

Important information

- If you are eligible for a preventative dental check, you can see your dentist prior to receiving the voucher but you cannot claim your dental benefit until your voucher for that calendar year has been issued.
- If the teenager is in equal shared care arrangements, the first family to claim the service with Medicare Australia will be entitled to the full dental benefit.
- If the total cost of your preventative dental check is more than \$157.00, Medicare Australia can only pay \$157.00. You will be responsible for any additional amount. If the total cost is less than \$157.00, Medicare Australia can only pay the amount you have been charged by the dentist.
- The preventative dental check is a Medicare service which is claimable from Medicare Australia. You may choose to claim through your private health fund, however, you cannot claim from both.



Checklist

- Keep your voucher and letter in a safe place.
- Make sure you take your voucher and Medicare card with you when you visit the dentist.
- Make sure you take your Medicare card with you if you need to claim your benefit at your local Medicare office.
- Remember to let Medicare Australia, DVA or Centrelink know if your details change at any time.

For more information

Online **www.medicareaustralia.gov.au**

Email **medicare@medicareaustralia.gov.au**

Visit your local Medicare office

Call **132 011***

TTY **1800 552 152**** (hearing and speech impaired)

TIS **131 450*** (Translating and Interpreting Service)

Arabic - إذا احتجت لمساعدة في ترجمة هذه المعلومات،
يمكنك الإتصال بخدمة الترجمة التحريرية والشفهية
على الرقم 131 450*

Korean - 본 정보의 이해를 위해 번역사의 도움이 필요하시면, 131 450*번으로 TIS 에 전화하십시오

Serbian - Ако вам је потребна помоћ да преведете информације, назовите TIS на 131 450*

Spanish - Si necesita ayuda para traducir esta información, llame al TIS al 131 450*

Turkish - Bu bilgiyi tercüme etmek için yardıma ihtiyacınız varsa 131 450* numaradan TIS'i arayınız

Vietnamese - Nếu quý vị cần nhờ dịch thông tin này xin gọi cho TIS số 131 450*

† Benefit as at 1 January 2010.

* Call charges apply.

** Call charges apply from mobile and pay phones only.