



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Media Release

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Medicare funded chronic dental program continues after Senate “disallows” Budget change But only for short time!!

The Medicare funded chronic illness dental health program that was to be abolished by the Federal Government from the end of this month appears to have received a reprieve following its disallowance in the Senate yesterday.

According to the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor, the disallowance means that people who missed out on gaining access to dental work under the program will now have potentially a two month window of opportunity to get their teeth fixed under the old program.

“The disallowance by the Senate of the scrapping of the Medicare funded dental program for people with chronic illness has effectively given these people potentially a two month window of opportunity to get their teeth fixed under the previous Government program.

This is a good thing as many people in desperate need of dental work for the good of their overall bodily health have missed out because of the new Government’s proposed changes.

The Government announced in March that people previously able to access dental work up to the value of \$2,125 per year for two years under Medicare because of another chronic illness that is adversely affected by poor dental condition would cease on June 30 however if people had not started their treatment by March 30, they would miss out completely.

I am now encouraging people whose doctors provide them with the necessary paperwork to access the Medicare funded dental program to act quickly and I also ask dentists to prioritise the work for these patients over the next couple of months before the Bill is reintroduced into the new Senate at the end of August or early September when it could go depending on how the new Senators view it,” Mr Windsor said.

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