Keeping people out of hospital: Oral health

Overview

Len Crocombe
Research Evidence

- Avoidance of food due to dental problems (AIHW 2008), restricted activity and days of work lost (Reisine 1984; Sternbach 1986; Spencer & Lewis 1988; Gift & Redford 1992)
- Periodontal (gum) disease (19%), 1+ tooth, untreated decay (25.5%), 1+ tooth extracted due to decay (61.0%) (Harford & Spencer, 2007)
- Expenditure on dentistry in Australia was 8.9b in 2014-15 (AIHW 2012)
- >90% of dental expenditure in the private sector (AIHW 2015)
Oral Health is Linked to Overall Health

The health of your mouth is linked to...

1. Heart Disease & Stroke
2. Respiratory Disease
3. Arthritis
4. Diabetes
5. Gastrointestinal Disease
6. Pre-Term Low Birth Weight Babies
Separations for selected preventable hospitalisations in Tasmania 2013-14

Australian Hospital Statistics 2013-14 (Table 4.22)
Research Evidence
Poor oral health:

• frail and older people (Chalmers 2002)
• rural residents (Crocombe et al. 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015)
• Indigenous Australians (Slack-Smith 2011)
• Australians with physical and intellectual disabilities (Pradhan et al. 2009)
• People of low socio-economic status (Sanders et al. 2006)
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- Keeping kid’s teeth out of the bucket
  Chris Handbury

- Getting our teeth into health professional education
  Ioan Jones

- Partnering for prevention
  Jenny McKibben
Identification of types and load of oral microorganisms associated with ill health and aspiration pneumonia in people living in residential aged care

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