

Dental services

Smile Squad provides free dental services to students in Victorian government schools by qualified professionals.

Dental examination (check-up)

A dental check-up includes a check of the teeth, gums, jaw and mouth.

Benefits: Most oral diseases/tooth problems do not cause pain in the early stages. Regular check-ups are the best way to find problems early. Once we know what is happening, we can plan for follow-up treatment.

If you give consent, the following services might be provided if they will benefit a student:

X-rays of teeth

An x-ray machine uses radiation to create a picture of what is happening inside the body.

We take x-rays of teeth using a small film put inside the mouth.

Benefits: X-rays give us information about teeth that cannot be seen by the naked eye. X-rays can find decay, infection and other problems.

Risks: X-rays are very safe. The x-rays we normally take have lower radiation than an aeroplane flight.

Fluoride varnish application

Fluoride varnish is a preventive treatment that works best if applied at least every six months.

Painting fluoride varnish onto teeth is very easy and usually takes a few minutes. The varnish sticks to the teeth until you brush them.

Benefits: Fluoride is a common mineral that helps build strong teeth and helps prevent tooth decay. Fluoride varnish can stop decay from starting and slow the rate at which decay happens.

Risks: Although rare, some people are allergic to an ingredient in fluoride varnish. Students with an allergy to colophony/rosin, casein (milk protein) or severe asthma may not be able to have fluoride varnish.

Fissure sealants

Sealants are a coating painted onto grooves (fissures) of teeth. They are usually placed on molar teeth.

Benefits: Sealants cover the grooves of teeth and stop food and germs from getting stuck. This stops decay from starting and spreading in the grooves.

Most sealant materials contain fluoride. Sealants can wear down over time and may need to be topped up or replaced.

Tooth cleaning

Teeth may need extra cleaning when toothbrushing cannot remove calculus (hard plaque) or tough stains.

Benefits: We can reduce the risk of gum disease by removing calculus, which can irritate the gums.

Follow-up treatment

If extra treatment is needed, Smile Squad will discuss this and ask for consent.

Frequently asked questions

Do parents, legal guardians or carers need to attend a student's appointment?

Parents, legal guardians, or carers are welcome to attend if they want to, but this is not a requirement.

Please contact Smile Squad to let us know if you'd like to attend.

If more treatment is needed, we might ask a parent, legal guardian, or carer to come to the appointment.

What if a student has had dental treatment recently?

If a student has had a recent dental visit they can be seen again by Smile Squad. They may not need x-rays and other preventive services.

What if a student is away from school during the Smile Squad visit?

If a student is away from school, we will see them another day or they can visit us at their local community dental agency. These services are still free.

Find your nearest community dental clinic at: www.dhsv.org.au/our-services/find-dental-clinics/clinic-search

Who can provide consent?

Parents, legal guardians or mature minors may complete these forms and provide consent.

To be considered a mature minor, the clinician must be satisfied that the student has sufficient understanding of the risks, benefits, and possible complications of their condition and proposed treatment to give informed consent.

A student may be considered capable of making some dental treatment decisions but not others. Where a secondary school-aged student isn't considered a mature minor by the clinician, they will seek consent from a parent or legal guardian.

Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS)

Some students may be eligible for the Australian Government's Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS), through Medicare.

The Australian Government allows us to make a claim on your behalf for this dental care if you sign the CDBS consent form.

What is the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS)?

CDBS is a Medicare program that provides eligible 0–17-year-olds basic dental care over a two-year period.

Bulk-billing costs for reference

Medicare requires us to provide you with this information. If you use CDBS these amounts will be taken from your CDBS benefit cap:

Service	CDBS bulk-billed fee	How much you pay
Dental examination (check-up)	\$57.65	\$0.00
X-rays of teeth (if needed)	\$33.35 per x-ray	\$0.00
Fissure sealants (if needed)	\$50.45 (at most) per tooth	\$0.00
Tooth cleaning (if needed)	\$98.20 (at most) depending on level of cleaning needed	\$0.00
Fluoride varnish application to all teeth (if needed)	\$37.85 per application (up to two applications within 12 months)	\$0.00

Privacy

Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV) is delivering Smile Squad in partnership with community dental agencies. DHSV is responsible for Smile Squad patient documentation. DHSV respects your privacy and is committed to protecting your information. We will handle your information according to the *Health Records Act and Privacy and Data Protection Act*.

At certain times we will collect data and feedback for Smile Squad research and evaluation purposes and to improve our services. We will keep your identity anonymous for this.

We will need to share anonymised information between government agencies like DHSV, Department of Education, and Department of Health. We will do this so we can learn together about the oral health of all students at school in Victoria. We will remove any identifying information.

Students can use their CDBS:

- for Smile Squad services
- at a Victorian public dental clinic
- at a private dental clinic

Smile Squad will use CDBS for eligible students.

Even if you do not sign the CDBS consent form, every student will still receive free dental care from Smile Squad. **There will be no cost to you.**

We encourage you to sign the bulk-billing CDBS consent form to allow Smile Squad to claim costs under Medicare. This helps us to provide dental care to more Victorians.

Visit www.dhsv.org.au/privacy to read DHSV's full privacy statement or scan the QR code below:



Rights and responsibilities

A copy of your healthcare rights is available on the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care website.