



**Media Release**

**8 FEBRUARY 2017**

### **Children's dental health: Thank you for listening**

The National Oral Health Alliance (NOHA)<sup>1</sup> is very pleased to acknowledge that this afternoon, the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP has announced that the two year cap for subsidised services under the Child Dental Benefits Scheme (CDBS) will remain at \$1000.

Spokesperson for the Alliance, Mr Tony McBride, noted "NOHA has been very concerned that the proposed reduction in the cap would mean the children most in need of support through this program may miss out because of the out of pocket costs.

"I want to sincerely thank the Minister for listening and reacting so quickly to this issue and assure him that our Alliance is prepared to work with him to ensure this program effectively targets the children most in need.

The CDBS is one of those relatively small programs that can punch well above its weight because by targeting it well, we can reduce the number of hospital admissions for poor dental health and also reduce long term costs. Helping young people access good oral health helps set them up for a better future – not just in terms of better health, but in the ability to contribute through employment and education. Good oral health is that fundamental" said Mr McBride.

"NOHA will be working hard supporting the Government to make a real difference for children through better oral health.

"I will be writing to the Minister to thank him on behalf of the Alliance, but I think it is also important to acknowledge his response quickly and publicly" said Mr McBride.

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<sup>1</sup> NOHA is an alliance of ten national consumer and professional bodies with a common interest in fair access for all Australians to timely dental care. NOHA believes access to oral health care in Australia should receive a higher priority and that the Federal Government needs to show leadership for ensuring more equitable access for all Australians