

MEDIA RELEASE

**Newly Elected President of the
Australian Dental Association SA Branch
Wants South Australians to be Saying
MY MOUTH MATTERS**



**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH
INCORPORATED**

Newly elected President of the Australian Dental Association SA Branch, Dr Chris Pazios wants South Australians to be saying “My Mouth Matters” to their:

- Dentists
- Politicians both State and Federal
- Owners of Residential Care Facilities
- Carers
- Their Medical Officers

In fact to anyone who is in a position to improve the oral health of the South Australian community?

Whilst welcoming the injection of \$3m extra dental funding recently announced by the State Minister for Health and Social Inclusion Hon Lea Stevens Dr Pazios says the health policy of the new Howard Commonwealth Government shows a complete indifference to oral health.

“If real gains are to be made in oral health then the Howard government must cease abdicating their responsibilities in this important area of health.” Dr Pazios said.

“In the lead up to the Federal election all parties were advised of some simple steps that could be taken to address:

- Basic oral health care to the Aged - nothing has been done.
- The oral health of the indigenous populations where with minimal expense considerable improvement could be achieved. No provision for this is made.
- Waiting lists for public patients. This means people will continue to have to wait up to 4 years for basic pain relieving treatment.
- The dental workforce and therefore the capacity to deliver proper dental care to the community. The plight of rural communities is not confined to lack of doctors-chronic shortages of dentists exist. No action again”

“There is evidence of the strong link between oral health and general health. The lack of focus given to oral health will continue to impact on the community, in particular disadvantaged groups. Already there is evidence that considerable health expenditure could have been avoided if adequate oral health care had been able to be delivered.”

Dr Pazios believes it is time for the South Australian community to deliver the strong message - ***My Mouth Matters.***

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