

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Australian Dental Association (ADA) does not publish a scale of recommended fees because:
  - such scale takes no account of variation in overhead costs;
  - variation in the clinical content of any item of service with respect to time taken to provide the service, the technique employed, and its degree of difficulty differs in each case; and
  - such action may breach the Competition and Consumer Act 2010.
- 1.2 The ADA regularly conducts a fee survey.
- 1.3 Fixed fee schedules have been accepted on compassionate grounds by the ADA.
- 1.4 In 2008 the ADA obtained authorisation from the ACCC to allow dentists practising in the same facility to charge the same fees. The authorisation has been renewed in 2013.
- 1.5 Rebates offered by funding agencies do not reflect fees charged by dentists.

### Definitions

- 1.6 **CAPITATION DENTAL SCHEME** is a dental benefits programme in which a dental practitioner is contracted to provide specified dental services for a set fee per person for a given period.

## 2. Principles

- 2.1 The primary relationship in the delivery of dental care is between the dentist and the patient.
- 2.2 Dentists have the right to charge usual and customary fees.
- 2.3 Fees may be based on an hourly rate or per procedure.

## 3. Policy

- 3.1 Dentists must be able to determine their own fees.
- 3.2 Dentists practising in the same facility should be able to charge the same fees.
- 3.3 Dentists should provide their patients with an account which includes sufficient detail to identify the nature of services provided and the debt to the dentist.
- 3.4 Individual dentists should be aware of the risk involved in entering into capitation and fixed or maximum fee schemes.
- 3.5 The ADA should conduct the Dental Fees Survey annually.

### Policy Statement 6.26

Adopted by ADA Federal Council, April 18/19, 2013.

Amended by ADA Federal Council, August 25/26, 2016.

Amended by ADA Federal Council, April 6/7, 2017.

<sup>1</sup> This Policy Statement is linked to other Policy Statements: 2.5.1 Delivery of Oral Health Care: Funding: Government, 2.5.3 Delivery of Oral Health Care: Funding: Capitation Dental Schemes, 5.1 Dentistry and Third Parties, 5.2 The Australian Schedule of Dental Services and Glossary, 5.5 Funding Agencies & 5.16 Informed Financial Consent.