

Smile Squad information sheet

Everyone deserves a healthy smile.

Tooth decay is the most common childhood disease in Australia, but it can be prevented. Regular dental check-ups can find and manage problems early.

Dental services

Smile Squad provides free dental services to students at school during school hours. This includes any general treatment that is needed.

Smile Squad staff include oral health therapists, dental therapists, oral health educators, dental assistants, and dentists.

Do I need to pay anything?

No. This is a free service for all students, provided by the Victorian Government.

What happens at the examination (check-up)?

A full dental examination includes a check of a student's teeth, gums, jaw and the mouth.

If you give consent, the following services might be provided:

Service	Description
Tooth cleaning	A clean of the teeth to remove calculus (hard plaque) or tough stains
Dental x-rays	X-rays (usually one for each side of the mouth) help to see what is happening under the gums and inside the teeth
Fluoride varnish	Fluoride varnish is painted onto all teeth every six months to help prevent tooth decay
Fissure sealants	A coating painted onto molar teeth to help prevent tooth decay. Some fissure sealant materials contain fluoride

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

Smile Squad will only provide preventive services that will benefit a student.

Who can provide consent?

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

Whilst the engagement of parents/guardians is encouraged, in Victoria, children who are considered 'mature minors' may provide consent for their own dental care. The law recognises that as children become older and more mature, they are more capable of making their own decisions, including seeking and obtaining their own health care.

To be considered a mature minor, the Smile Squad 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 to be a mature minor by the dental clinician, they will seek parent/guardian consent.

If you have any questions, please speak with your Smile Squad provider.

Do parents, legal guardians or carers have 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.

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.

Smile Squad can become a student's regular dental provider. We will visit your school every year - more often for those students who need it.

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.

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

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Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS)

What is the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS)?

The Australian Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) is a dental benefits program that provides eligible 0–17-year-olds basic dental care over a two-year period.

Smile Squad will use CDBS for eligible students.

We will make a claim on your behalf for CDBS if you sign the consent form in this pack.

What if a student is not eligible for CDBS or Medicare?

Every student will still receive free dental care. All students in government schools are eligible to see Smile Squad. There are no out-of-pocket costs.

Privacy

Smile Squad is a Victorian Government program. Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV) is delivering this program in partnership with community dental agencies.

Smile Squad will protect your privacy. They will keep your personal and health information confidential and secure. Smile Squad will store, maintain, and use this information so it meets high standards set by the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and the *Health Records Act 2001*.

We respect these laws and guidelines. They tell us when and how to collect, use, handle and destroy all personal and health information.

Smile Squad will only collect personal and health information that is necessary. Smile Squad may need to collect extra information during visits. We do this to come up with the best care plan possible.

We will collect information and store it in a student's dental record. Authorised Smile Squad personnel (from DHSV and Victorian community dental agencies) have access to this.

We will primarily use and share a student's personal and health information to:

- determine a student's dental needs, and
- provide dental care and treatment to them.

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

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

Smile Squad may use or disclose a student's health information, in other circumstances, if required or permitted by law.

You may access your dental record by contacting Smile Squad. In some cases, the Freedom of Information (FOI) process may be appropriate. A copy of the DHSV privacy statement is available on the DHSV website at: <https://www.dhsv.org.au/privacy>

In some circumstances, Smile Squad may share information with a student's school if this is necessary to support their safety, health, and wellbeing. Information about a student that the school collects or receives in connection with the Smile Squad program will be used and managed in accordance with the school's privacy policy, available from the school.

A student's school may also share information that the school already has with Smile Squad if this is needed to support a student's safety, health, and wellbeing during their appointment.

Rights and responsibilities

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

Feedback

Please tell us what you think (good or bad), at any time. You can email feedback to smilesquad@dhsv.org.au