

Oral Health Promotion in Day Services Small grants from DHS, Victoria

Victoria has an Action Plan for Oral Health Promotion 2013 –2017 which aims to improve the oral health of all Victorians, particularly “at risk” groups such as people with a disability. DHS will again be offering small grants to day services in 2013-14 to organisations interested in developing ways to promote good oral health of people with a disability. Day Services will need to submit a short form to DHS outlining the request for funding, which must be expended by 30 June 2014.

Applications forms will be sent out from local connections managers by mid July 2013 with a submission deadline by mid August 2013. Alternatively, organisations can contact Bonnie Morrison, Dental Health Services Victoria at Bonnie.Morrison@dhsv.org.au or phone 03 9341 1721.

LISA Comment: The most common avenue of enjoyment for almost all people, is food and drink. It is vital for the full enjoyment of food, to have a good set of one’s own teeth, and good gums.

Yet a large number of people with intellectual or multiple disabilities, especially those in supported accommodation group homes - most especially those in DHS group homes have poor teeth or none at all. And, most can’t wear dentures for obvious reasons.

Most of the poor dental care culture came from the questionable care in the, then, large institutions – a culture which filtered out to the, now, group homes in the community.

Whilst we welcome the DHS initiative for Day Services, they should be actively promoting similar in their Supported Accommodation Group Homes.