

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety report - oral health recommendations

In February 2021 the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety presented their final report. The report unveils the complex issues leading to widespread substandard care. This report recognises the neglect of oral health care in residential aged care facilities.

The report emphasises the importance of oral health in 5 of the 148 recommendations:

- Recommendation 19: Urgent review of the Aged Care Quality Standards, in particular best-practice oral care, with sufficient detail on what these requirements involve and how they are to be achieved.
- Recommendation 38: Residential aged care to employ or retain allied health professionals, including oral health practitioners.
- Recommendation 60: Establish a Senior Dental Benefits Scheme for people who live in residential aged care or in the community.
- Recommendation 79: Review Certificate III and IV courses to consider including oral health as a core competency.
- Recommendation 114: Immediate funding for education and training to improve the quality of care, including oral health.

<https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/final-report-list-recommendations>

The government, funding agencies, service providers and carers will have to work together to address complex issues around oral health care in home and residential care facilities. Stakeholders need to work together to provide suitable, personalised quality oral health care and support for residents. Most importantly, stakeholders need to advocate and lobby the federal government to fund and action these important recommendations.

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