



Thursday, 10 May 2012

Media Release

Federal Budget Response

1300SMILES Ltd Managing Director Dr. Daryl Holmes has welcomed the dental health initiatives announced by the Government in the Federal Budget.

Dr Holmes said, "The initiatives will probably not solve the problems with the public health system, but they are a step in the right direction. More detail is needed on some of the initiatives, and the direct benefit to 1300SMILES will not be known for some time, but we are quietly optimistic that they should assist 1300SMILES in some way."

He said, "We have been lobbying State and Federal members for years, offering to allow public patients to be treated in our surgeries, where there is available capacity, funded by the Government. The lack of funding has been the stated roadblock, and it is pleasing to finally see the Federal Government announce \$345.9 million over three years to alleviate pressure on public dental waiting lists, including through the purchase of private dental services if necessary. I believe it is necessary."

"The Government does not have enough dentists to solve the problem, and probably never will, so public-private partnerships are essential. 1300SMILES Ltd is in the best position to assist the Government, in Queensland, and we look forward to working with all levels of Government to help reduce waiting lists."

Dr Holmes also said, "Additional funding of \$77.7 million over four years to fund grants for dentists who relocate their practice to regional, rural or remote areas should also assist 1300SMILES because of the concentration of our practices in regional areas."

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT 1300SMILES LTD

1300SMILES Ltd owns and operates full-service dental facilities at twenty-four sites, mainly in the ten major population centres in Queensland. The company continually seeks to expand its presence into other geographical areas throughout Australia. It does so both by establishing its own new operations and by acquiring existing dental practices. The administrative and corporate offices are in Townsville.

1300SMILES enables the delivery of services to patients by providing the use of dental surgeries, practice management and other services to self employed dentists who carry on their own dental practices. The services provided by the company allow the dentists to focus on the delivery of dental services rather than on the administrative aspects of carrying on their businesses.

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For further information please call Dr Daryl Holmes on +61 7 4720 1300 or 0418 451 220 or md@1300smiles.com.au