

Seniors' Conference 2011: Agents of Change

Session Title:	Dental Health for Older Australians & Medicare Funding
Convenor:	Robyn
Participants:	Pauline, Gwen, Betty, Sanlin, Bing Qi, gamini, Don, Irene, Eva, Yvonne

Summary of Discussions:

1. Health Status: chronic conditions. Chronic disease management previously enhanced Primary care Program EPC
2. availability of literature which explains the requirements of Medicare re-dental and oral health i.e. entitlement and availability
3. need for information and education for consumers about oral health, dental care, dietary choices and long-term basis

What will we do now? What needs to happen next?

1. draw minister of Health's attention to these issues
2. more timely money for CDM and self-funded retirees
3. Question response-needs to be timely
4. General Medical Practitioners need education re: CDM and timely referral
5. get clarifications as to 'do we need to have Health Card to access CDM plan? Chronic condition=yes; by HCC=not sure)

Concern and lack of awareness

- Insights: the high level of concern and anxiety that exists for participants about the urgency for improved management and funding
- Lack of awareness and (within our peer group) about existing entitlements and tightening of criteria

Actions:

1. write to Minister on issue: seniors dental care
2. call for interested support/ lobby group members (media)
3. website link with info on issue and entitlements
4. Help desk with accurate info on CDM process