



dental health
services victoria

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Oral Health Promotion

Dr. Sally Shaw
State-wide Manager Oral Health Promotion
Dental Health Services Victoria

Oral Health

- Oral disease is largely preventable
- Significant burden of disease remains in 0-5 year old age group
- Parental fear of dental treatment often reason for postponing dental visits
- **54** per cent of five year old children experience dental caries (DHSV 2007)

Oral Health

- Marked inequalities in oral health
- Traditional approach restricts referrals
- Evidence that one off dental “talks” to children are ineffective if unsupported

General Health

Child health in the last 10 years

- High levels of sedentary time
- Advertising
- Fast food
- Low levels of fruit and vegetable intake

General Health

Child health in the last 10 years

- High and rising levels of childhood overweight and obesity
- Rising incidence of Type 2 diabetes
- High levels of dental decay

Why Promote Oral Health?

- Overall health and well-being
- Prevent pain
- Prevent fear of medical/dental treatment
- Lifetime of dental 'repairs'
- Prevent orthodontic problems
- Reduce waiting lists at private and public services
- Ongoing Health Cost

Oral Health in Victoria

Challenges

- Dental workforce shortage
- Limited access to dental services
- Oral health viewed as separate from general health

Opportunities

- Build capacity outside dental sector
- Prevention before identification
- De-mystify oral health, and embed within general health

Identifying 'at risk' children

Identifying high risk behaviors

- Using a bottle or breast as a comforter
- Late introduction of solids / cup
- Thumb, finger and lip sucking
- Difficulty with effective cleaning
- Unnecessary use of dummies
- Poor diet and nutrition
- Absence of visits to dental professionals

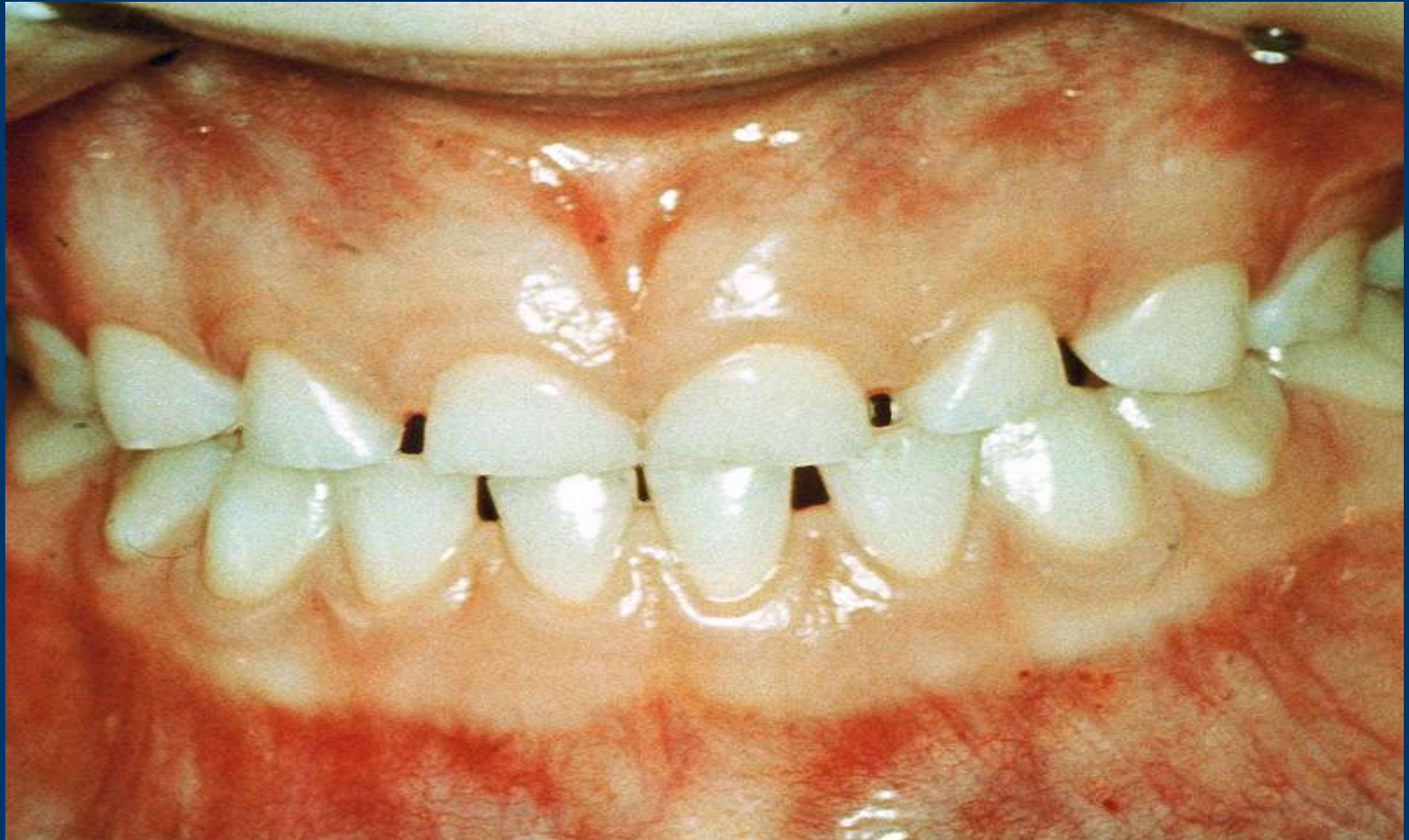
What is a Mouth Check?

- Lifting the lip and looking at the anterior teeth
- Looking in the whole mouth
- Locating any problems
- Referring if any problems are identified

What to Look for in a Mouth Check

- Dental Caries
- Number of teeth
- Colour of teeth
- Unusual lumps, sores or abscesses
- Is the child suffering from any dental pain?

Healthy Teeth



Early Childhood Caries



Advanced Early Childhood Caries

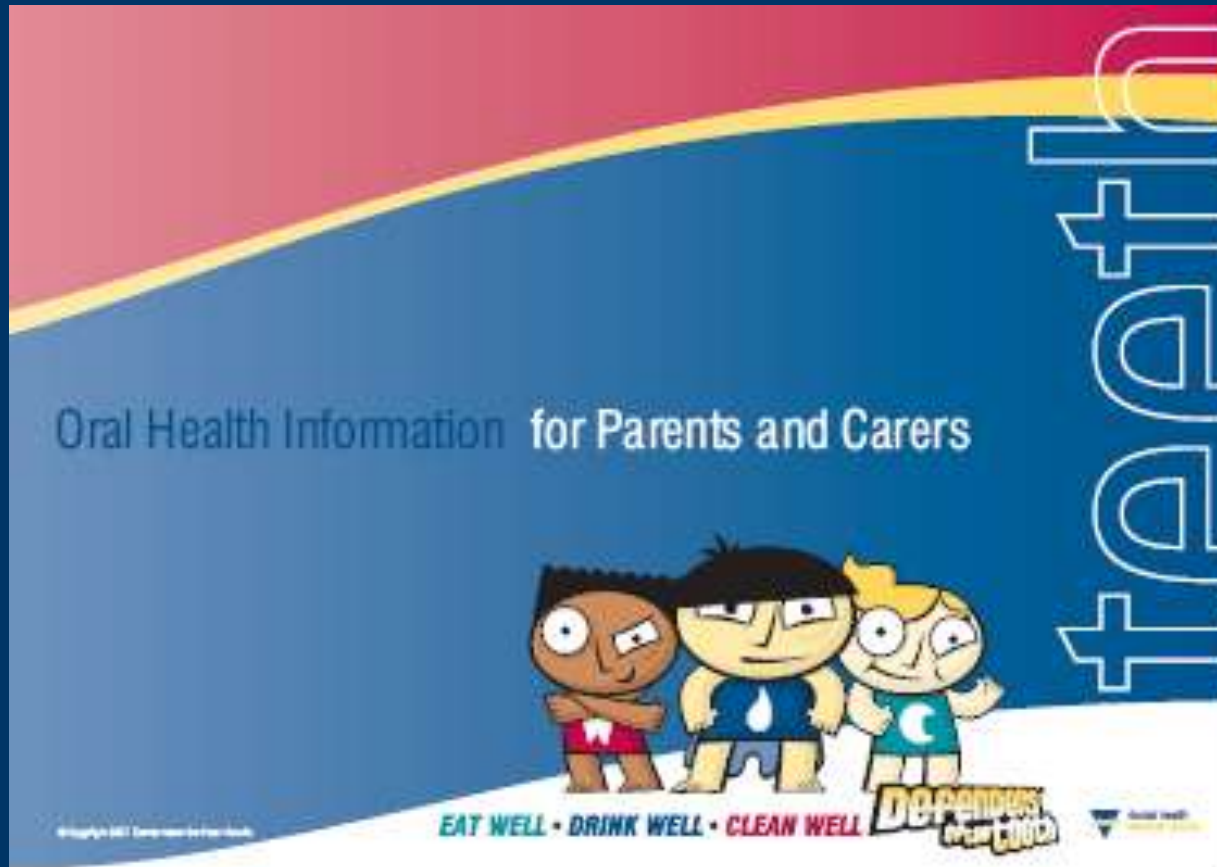


Early Childhood Oral Health Program (ECOHP)

- ECOHP provides an early intervention strategy for children from birth to school entry
- All preschool children are eligible to access public dental services
- MCHN can identify and refer 'at risk' 0-5 year old children

The Flipchart

Launching the 2008 edition of the DHSV Flipchart -
'Teeth: Oral Health Information for Parents and Carers'



The Focus Group Feedback

- Feedback sought on:
 - Pictures
 - Text
 - Language
 - Messages
 - Format

The Flipchart – e.g. of changes

Prompt: Warn about using the breast or bottle as a comforter



The Flipchart – e.g. of changes

Increased use of ✓ and X to indicate preferred option, as well as use of well known brands

Water is the best drink for all children, whether it's during or between meals.

The advertisement features a flipchart with two pages. The left page shows a young girl drinking from a glass of water, marked with a large yellow checkmark. The right page shows a shelf with various sugary drinks and snacks, marked with a large red X. The text 'Sugary drinks & snacks are avoided' is written around the top edge of the right page.

WaterBOY™
EAT WELL • DRINK WELL • CLEAN WELL

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The Flipchart – e.g. of changes

Increased use of photos of children from culturally diverse backgrounds

Eating fresh fruit and vegetables provides children with fibre, vitamins, minerals and other healthy nutrients.

Everyday Foods

EAT WELL • DRINK WELL • CLEAN WELL

#EggsIn100

The Flipchart – e.g. of changes

Increased use of photos of children from culturally diverse backgrounds



The Flipchart – e.g. of changes

Clear prompts on the flipside of each page to assist in message delivery



The Flipchart – e.g. of changes

Dental Visits

- Dental Visits may be helpful from as early as 12 months, particularly for children at higher risk of oral disease.
- For many children, the first dental visit is about becoming familiar and comfortable with the dental setting.
- Suggest the child accompany the parent on their own visit to the dental professional (they may be offered a ride in the chair).
- Help children to accept that dental visits are part of a regular routine.
- Encourage positive discussion about the dentist (avoid language such as "be brave").



Thankyou!

www.dhsv.org.au

healthpromotion@dhsv.org.au



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