

Early Years Model for Oral Health

Project Aim

Oral Health Victoria (OHV) is developing a statewide model to improve oral health from conception up to primary school entry. The model will adopt a population health and value-based health care approach, with a focus on prevention and early intervention.



Rationale

Evidence shows that poor oral health in childhood is the strongest predictor of poor oral health in adulthood. Additionally, there are links between oral disease and health conditions, such as adverse pregnancy outcomes, diabetes, and heart disease. By improving oral health in the earliest years, people can enjoy good oral and general health across the lifespan.

PROJECT OVERVIEW



Working group

Representatives from:



Private dental sector



Community Dental Agencies



Primary health



Early childhood education and care



State and local government



Universities



Community health services



Activities in progress

- 1 Drafting an evaluation plan
- 2 Revising OHV online training modules for professionals
- 3 Internal review of oral health programs:

- 4 Developing a clinical manual and guidelines to care for the oral health of children aged 0-5
- 5 Early Learning Victoria Oral Health Pilot