

DENTAL CLINICS, CONCESSION CARD HOLDERS

1374. Dr Constable to the Minister for Health

- (1) How many low-income earners in WA have health concession cards which entitle them to dental treatment at public dental clinics?
- (2) How many of those in (1) were treated in each public dental clinic in each of the following years -
 - (a) 2001;
 - (b) 2000;
 - (c) 1999; and
 - (d) 1998?

Mr KUCERA replied:

1. As at 15 June 2001 the number of low income earners in WA in possession of a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card who are eligible for Government subsidised oral health care was 430 082.
2. Eligible patients are able to access subsidised general and emergency dental care at public dental clinics, through private dental practitioners who participate in the Metropolitan and Country Patient Dental Subsidy Schemes, and at the Oral Health Centre of Western Australia.

Subsidised specialist dental care is provided to eligible patients at the Oral Health Centre of WA and through private Orthodontists who participate in the Orthodontic Patient Subsidy Scheme.

Not all eligible patients chose to be treated in public dental clinics.

Approximately half of all eligible patients seek dental care in any one year either through Government subsidised care or through private practitioners.

Information on the total number of patients treated in public dental clinics for the years 1997/98 to 2000/01 is summarised below. To provide information on the number of patients treated in each public dental clinic for these years will require considerable resources and is not available within a short timeframe.

(a)	2000/2001	66 666
(b)	1999/2000	66 620
(c)	1998/1999	60 218
(d)	1997/1998	57 455

Please note that additional to these figures, the number of patients treated through the Country and Metropolitan Patient Dental Subsidy Schemes is provided below:

Country Patient Dental Subsidy Scheme:

2000/2001	11 245
1999/2000	6 728
1998/1999	4 553
1997/1998	4 335

Metropolitan Patient Dental Subsidy Scheme: (only commenced in 2000/01)

2000/01	13 880
---------	--------