

Medicare Teen Dental Plan - giving teens a reason to smile

To help keep teenagers' teeth in good health, each calendar year the Australian Government provides all eligible teenagers with a voucher – valued up to \$159.85 – to help with the cost of a preventative dental check.

To be eligible, a teenager must be entitled to Medicare benefits, be receiving certain government benefits individually or as part of a family and be aged 12–17 years, for at least part of the calendar year.

So far, over one million dental checks have been provided to eligible teenagers under the Medicare Teen Dental Plan. We encourage all eligible teenagers to take advantage of their voucher before it expires on 31 December 2011.



Things to remember

Take the voucher and Medicare card to the dentist when the teenager has the preventative dental check.

If the voucher is lost, call 132 011* or visit a Medicare office to request a replacement.

If your teenager is in equal shared care arrangements, the first family to claim the service with Medicare Australia will be entitled to the full benefit.

For more information or eligibility details visit your local Medicare office, call 132 011* or go to www.medicareaustralia.gov.au. To speak to someone in Italian, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450*.

**Call charges may vary depending on the telephone service provider. Calls from public telephones and mobile phones may be charged at a higher rate.*

Are you getting more medicine than you need?

Did you know that storing out-of-date medicine or having more prescription medicines than you need can be dangerous for you, your family and friends?

Through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) the Australian Government pays part of the cost of medicines prescribed by a doctor. This helps keep the cost low for over 2600 types of prescription medicines needed to manage health conditions.

It is important to remember that medicine prescribed to you by a doctor is for your use only, and must be taken only as instructed by the doctor.

You can prevent the misuse of medicines by following these simple steps:

- ☞ make sure you tell your doctor what medicines you are taking
- ☞ don't keep medicine you don't need
- ☞ don't send your medicine to relatives or friends overseas
- ☞ don't share, swap or sell your medicine.

Medicines past their use-by-date can stop working properly and can become toxic. It is important you get rid of your old or leftover medicines safely. When possible, take these medicines back to your doctor or pharmacist.

Not only is it illegal, but taking medicine prescribed for another person could cause you harm and can have fatal consequences.

For more information, visit www.medicareaustralia.gov.au or to speak to someone in Italian call 131 450*.

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Sydney metro solar panels checks to commence June 6

Fair Trading Minister Anthony Roberts today announced electrical safety for consumers would be the focus of at least 500 initial spot checks to be undertaken by NSW Fair Trading in coming weeks in the Sydney region.

Mr Roberts said Fair Trading inspectors would also examine the licensing of builders and electricians installing or connecting the work, as well as workmanship, home warranty insurance and any breaches of the Home Building Act 1989 and the Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2004.

“Fair Trading is planning this review involving 25 qualified inspectors targeting areas of Sydney where there has been significant uptake of solar panel technology,” he said. “Fair Trading complaints data and advice from energy suppliers are being used to do this planning,” he said.

“The cost of the review program will be met from existing resources.” The Minister said he had released the results of spot checks,



done by Fair Trading in Port Macquarie in February this year, to the public as quickly as possible.

“As I made it clear in my statements over the weekend, I got these facts from Fair Trading last week, late on Thursday night, followed by a briefing on Friday, at which time I made the decision to release information to the public,” he said.

“This data was not provided to me or the new NSW Government prior to Thursday night.”

Mr Roberts said that during checks, Fair Trading would ask

customers if they had received a Certificate of Compliance for installation work.

“Installers of solar panel units must provide consumers and energy companies with a Certificate of Compliance,” he said. “Electrical contractors are required to ensure electrical installations comply with Australian Standards.”

Fair Trading has worked with the renewable energy industry, electrical network operators and the major NSW industry association, NECA, to identify compliance issues related to solar panels.

Campaign to increase diversity in the Force

A recruitment campaign will be launched today to encourage members of culturally diverse communities to pursue a professional career in the force. As an organisation, the police force strives to achieve a safer community for all and to be effective, aims to reflect the community it serves. “Officers from culturally diverse backgrounds bring

specialised skills to the force, such as language skills and cultural understanding.” Deputy Commissioner Nick Kaldas, the Corporate Spokesperson for Cultural Diversity said. “By having a greater representation of our diverse communities within the police force, we increase our organisational capabilities for current and future policing challenges.



“Fostering and supporting diversity in our workforce is an intelligent management practice that can only make a stronger and more effective force,” he said. The small but targeted advertising campaign was developed after research highlighted a number of perceived barriers to joining the police force amongst members of culturally diverse communities. The advertising comprises a mix of ethnic and local press, posters as well as facebook and other online advertising.

“I hope this advertising campaign prompts both females and males, who have an interest in a career in policing, to take the first step to join.

“I have had an interesting, challenging and rewarding career and am proud to serve as a NSW Police officer. There is a strong sense of camaraderie within the organisation and I can personally recom-

mend a career in policing,” said Deputy Commissioner Kaldas.

Upon joining, recruits are initially trained at the NSW Police College in Goulburn where they are required to complete an Associate Degree of Policing Practice through Charles Sturt University. After attesting at the Police College, the new Probationary Constables commence three years of general duties.

“We encourage officers to move outside of their local communities initially to commence their general duties policing. “When recruits finish their three years of general duties policing there are a range of training and career opportunities available to them,” said Deputy Commissioner Kaldas.

For further information about becoming a police officer visit : www.police.nsw.gov.au/recruitment