

THE “BITE-BACK” CAMPAIGN

TO SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME

In the August Budget, the Treasurer Peter Costello announced that the funding for the Commonwealth Dental Health Programme to the States would cease.

Without this programme, the dental health of disadvantaged Australians will suffer. **People with a psychiatric illness or disability will be particularly hard hit as many of them rely on this programme.**

The success of the programme cannot be doubted:

- over 500,000 low-income people now receive dental care through private dentists and public dental clinics
- 27% fewer eligible adults have had teeth extracted - 40% more are receiving fillings
- waiting lists have been reduced from 5 years to an average of under 1 year.

Without this programme low-income people will again be forced to having their teeth extracted unnecessarily.

You can help to save the programme by registering your support with:

The Hon, Dr. Michael Wooldridge MP
Minister for Health & Family Services
MG48, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Tele: (06) 277 7220
Fax: (06) 273 4146

Or contact your local Federal Member of Parliament and Senator.

The “Bite-Back” Campaign is being co-ordinated by a coalition of community organisations. For further information contact the Brotherhood of St Laurence, 67 Brunswick St, Fitzroy, Victoria 3065. Tele: (03) 94831616 or Fax: (03) 9417 2691