DENTAL PRACTICE ACCREDITATION
INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Dental Practice Accreditation is the process a dental practice goes through to demonstrate their ongoing commitment to improving patient safety and quality of care.

Dental Practice Accreditation is mandatory for most public dental services and voluntary for private dental practices, however your dental practice may also undertake accreditation to fulfil the requirements of 'preferred provider' agreements with health insurance providers.

ADAQ encourages all members to have their practices accredited and a and a significant number already have.

WHAT ARE THE NATIONAL SAFETY AND QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES STANDARDS?

The National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards provide a nationally consistent statement of the level of care consumers can expect from health service organisations. These standards exist to protect the public from harm and aim to improve the quality of health services provided.

STANDARDS OF DENTAL PRACTICE ACCREDITATION

To achieve accreditation a dental practice must meet the first six of the ten National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards

STANDARD 1

Governance for Safety and Quality in Health Service Organisations

STANDARD 2

Partnering with Consumers

STANDARD 3

Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infections

STANDARD 4

Medication Safety

STANDARD 5

Patient Identification and Procedure Matching

STANDARD 6

Clinical Handover

WHAT DOES DENTAL PRACTICE ACCREDITATION MEAN FOR ME?

Unlike their public sector colleagues who must be accredited, private dental practices are not required to undergo the same procedure.

If the dental practice you attend has accredited itself, that means they have, of their own volition and expense, voluntarily committed to continuously improve patient safety and quality of care.

Every time you attend an accredited dental practice, you can be confident that your practice undertakes continual assessment and improvement of practice procedures.

For more information on oral health visit **www.adaq.com.au**

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY DENTAL PRACTICE IS ACCREDITED?

When you visit your dentist, you may spot a certificate or poster on display which will identify that the dental practice has successfully achieved accreditation. If your practice does not have these on display, all you need to do is ask them if they have undergone accreditation.

Make sure to congratulate the staff on attaining accreditation! It is a significant achievement and demonstrates their ongoing commitment to improve your dental experience.

MY DENTAL PRACTICE IS NOT ACCREDITED, SHOULD I BE CONCERNED?

No, not every dental practice is accredited and there is no need to worry. All dental practices must comply with a comprehensive range of legislative guidelines, standards, and requirements to ensure a level of safety and quality service for consumers, even without accreditation.

SUPPORTING **YOU** AND **YOUR** HEALTHY SMILE