

The QCoal Community Dental Service is helping people to achieve better overall health by treating a range of dental conditions and focusing on preventative oral health.

### Why is good dental health so important?

Research has shown clear links between oral health and general health.

Gum disease is associated with rheumatoid arthritis, adverse pregnancy outcomes and coronary heart disease. Chronic gum infection can also lead to diabetes complications.

Oral health is the second-most expensive disease group in Australia, with direct treatment costs of over \$6 billion a year and additional care costs exceeding a further \$1 billion.

Despite the fact that oral diseases are largely preventable, dental admissions are the highest cause of acute preventable hospital admissions in Australia.

Around 80% of all dental practitioners are located in major cities with less than one per cent working in remote areas.

Research has also shown people living outside capital cities have fewer teeth, more untreated decay and were less likely to visit a dentist.

Waiting lists of up to 18 months for public dental care mean that the focus ends up being on acute treatment rather than the prevention of disease and maintenance of oral health.



# QCoal Community Dental Service

## About the Royal Flying Doctor Service

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) is dedicated to providing vital health care to anyone living, working or travelling in rural and remote Australia.

The iconic RFDS emergency retrieval service operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and has expanded to provide regular transfers of patients for life-saving medical care, delivering critical support to those who live in rural and remote areas.

A broad range of essential health care services are also delivered by the RFDS to rural and remote communities. This comprehensive health care service includes general practice, Indigenous health, child and family health, social and emotional wellbeing, women's health and health promotion activities.

Today, the RFDS provides the finest care to more than 290,000 Australians each year – that's one person every two minutes.



**To book an appointment with the QCoal Community Dental Service, phone 1800 002 507.**

Visit [www.flyingdoctor.org.au/dental](http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/dental)



A partnership dedicated to the health and wellbeing of the community.

A partnership dedicated to the health and wellbeing of the community.



## QCoal Foundation and the Royal Flying Doctor Service have partnered to improve access to dental care in regional communities in Central Queensland.

Since February 2013 the QCoal Community Dental Service has been delivering dental care from a purpose-built semi-trailer that currently visits towns throughout Central Queensland.

The service offers preventative care as well as treatment for a range of conditions at no cost to the patient.

## What is the QCoal Community Dental Service?

The QCoal Community Dental Service is a mobile dental health service delivered by the RFDS in partnership with QCoal Foundation.

The service is the first of its type for the RFDS with two state-of-the-art mobile dental surgeries. It is delivered by RFDS dentists and dental assistants and includes an orthopantomogram, which enables the dentists to take a full x-ray of the teeth and jaw.

There is no out-of-pocket expense to patients using this service.

## Who is the service for?

The service is available to everyone and can be accessed by people living or working within and around the communities visited.

If you live in an area that has access to a local private dentist, we encourage you to continue to access that service.

However, anyone in pain or experiencing an emergency can be treated by our dental team.

## What dental services are on offer?

The QCoal Community Dental Service offers dental care ranging from a simple check and clean through to an extraction or x-ray.

This dental service provides:

- > oral health maintenance
- > treatment for acute and pre-existing conditions
- > treatment for gum disease

Any care the QCoal Community Dental Service is unable to provide will be referred to an appropriate service provider.

This service excludes: removable denture construction or maintenance; fixed prosthetics; orthodontic treatment (initial examination excepted); implants; gingival and mucosal grafts; alveolectomy; zygoma or jaw fractures; surgery involving salivary glands or ducts; occlusal therapy; and difficult third molar surgery.

## How do I make a booking?



**To book an appointment, phone 1800 002 507.**

Appointments are limited and are subject to availability.

This service provides treatment at no cost to clients, however please bring your Medicare Card or private health insurance fund details to your appointment.

 Our mobile dental team is waiting to brighten your smile. 

## Where does the service visit?

The QCoal Community Dental Service currently visits towns around Central Queensland. The map below shows the sites that will be visited by the service.

To view the most current schedule, please visit [www.flyingdoctor.org.au/dental](http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/dental)

The service will continue to expand with demand, so please check back if the dental service is not currently visiting your area.

