


**UPDATE ON THE NATIONAL
ORAL HEALTH POLICY**

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NATIONAL ORAL HEALTH POLICY 
WHY NOW?

- Last national strategy in 1994 - Dental Health Action Plan
- Much has changed in the meantime
- Major demographic changes
- New research data
- Establishment of HSE

NATIONAL ORAL HEALTH POLICY 
WHY NOW?

- Allow the Department and the HSE to examine the issues on the dental service's agenda in consultation with stakeholders
- Facilitate the planning and re-orientation of oral health services over the next 10 years

THE CHALLENGE



DELIVER QUALITY ORAL HEALTH CARE TO
THE POPULATION IN A COST EFFECTIVE
MANNER

FIVE STRANDS



- State funded dental services provided through Five Strands:
- HSE delivered by salaried staff focussed primarily on children
- DTSS
- DTBS
- Hospital Based Services
- Environmental services & other measures - fluoridation & health promotion

- Total cost to the State of approximately €300 million
- Strands are inter-related but not co-ordinated

EXTERNAL FACTORS



- CHANGING DEMOGRAPHY
- CHANGE IN PATTERN OF DISEASE
- INCREASING EVIDENCE OF LINK BETWEEN ORAL DISEASE AND GENERAL HEALTH
- COST/ECONOMIC FACTORS
- COMPETITION AUTHORITY REPORT
- GOVERNMENT DECISION ON DTBS
- OECD REPORT/PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM

PROCESS TO DATE

EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- GENERAL PUBLIC
- REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATIONS
- CONSULTATIVE PANEL
- EXTENSIVE BILATERAL MEETINGS (FEB - MAY)

7 MEETINGS OF THE CORE POLICY GROUP


21 BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

76 SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED AND CONSIDERED.

MET WITH IRISH DENTAL NURSES ASSOCIATION



IDNA POLICY ISSUES



- Question of Statutory Registration for dental nurses
- Composition of Dental Council
- Educational Standards - guidelines
- Role of auxiliaries in the Dental Team
- Skills mix
- Accountability for Health and Safety

RECURRENT THEMES



- OVER COMPLICATED DELIVERY SYSTEM
- INTEGRATION
- QUALITY ASSURANCE/PATIENT SAFETY
- VALUE FOR MONEY
- PROBLEMS WITH "SPECIAL NEEDS" PROVISION
- SPECIALISATION
- OUT OF HOURS/EMERGENCY SERVICE
- TEAMWORK/FUTURE MANPOWER NEEDS
- TRAINING AND LIFE LONG LEARNING
- LEADERSHIP

MATTERS UNDER CONSIDERATION



1. IMPROVE REGULATORY REGIME THROUGH;
 - NEW DENTISTS ACT
 - NEW DENTAL COUNCIL
 - GREATER POWERS
2. ALIGN DTSS/DTBS
3. EMPHASISE PREVENTION/ORAL HEALTH PROMOTION
4. ROLE OF PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICE
5. CHILDRENS SERVICE
6. ADDRESS ISSUES IN "SPECIAL NEEDS"
7. TARGET DISADVANTAGED GROUPS
8. GREATER USE IN FUTURE OF DENTAL TEAMS/OTHER ORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
9. CHANGES IN DENTAL SCHOOL CURRICULUM
10. INTEGRATION
11. LEADERSHIP

CURRENT POSITION



- ABSORB LEARNING FROM CONSULTATION PROCESS
- LOOK AT "BIG PICTURE" ISSUES
- ANALYSIS OF THE HSE PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICE
- IDENTIFY OPTIONS ON KEY ISSUES
- MOVE TO DECISIONS
- DRAFT REPORT
- FINAL CONSULTATION
