

## Children's Dental Program – Expanded Project

<b>Project No:</b>	010	<b>Commencement Date:</b>	July 2016
<b>Chief Investigator A:</b>	Prof Mike Morgan	<b>Completion Date:</b>	July 2017
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### Introduction

In 2013, a pilot research project – the Children's Dental Program (CDP) – was carried out at Plenty Valley Community Health (PVCH). The project investigated child dental visit attendance patterns to determine whether a targeted school dental check-up program can retain high-needs child patients using public dental services. The pilot project's positive finding demonstrated support for an expanded project.

### Aims

- Monitor current child dental visit attendance patterns.
- Increase dental access for low-income families.
- Affirm that school dental check-ups retain high-needs child patients.
- Assess the effect of the Child Dental Benefits Schedule in private dental practice.
- Conduct an economic evaluation of the Children's Dental Program.

### Rationale

This study seeks to reaffirm the value of school dental check-ups to increase dental access and retain high-needs child patients.

### Methodology

Children involved in the study will have a dental screening visit at their school to assess whether dental care is required. Children who do not need treatment will be offered a review visit in six months. Children who require dental treatment will be offered an appointment at PVCH. Children aged between seven and 12 years will complete a self-administered questionnaire.

### What are the expected outcomes?

This project is expected to inform policymakers of the potential benefits of school dental check-ups at a national level.

