

In the spirit of reconciliation, DHSV acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.



Partnering to Improve Children's Oral Health

Making children's oral health everyone's business.



Oral health in early childhood

- [1. National Child Oral Health Study 2012-14](#)
- [2. Victorian Preschool Oral Health Survey 2014-15](#)
- [3. Victorian Public Dental Service Data 2020-21](#)

Tooth decay is the most **common chronic disease** in childhood.¹

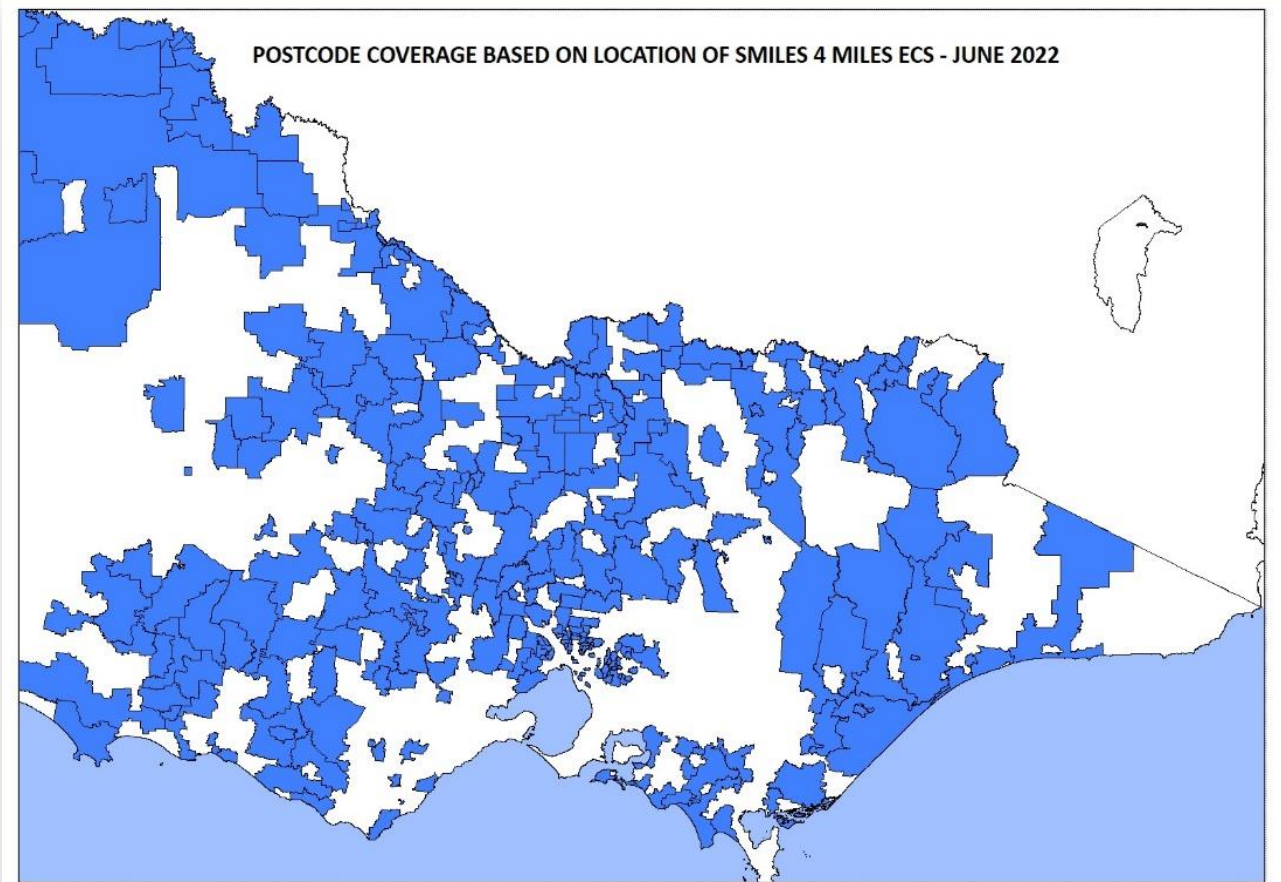
57% of Victorian preschool aged children have history of decay.²

Dental admissions are the second highest **cause of preventable hospital admissions** in children <5 yrs.³





Smiles 4 Miles





Key messages





The role of partnerships



Partnerships are fundamental to the successful delivery of Smiles 4 Miles, and health promotion initiatives more broadly, as they:

- Increase the range of supports available to early childhood services participating in the program
- Allow for a more collaborative, comprehensive, and impactful approach to improving the health of the community
- Enables the program to increase reach, enhance credibility and further strengthen the setting as a supportive environment.



DHSV

Smiles 4 Miles program

- Funding body
- Support, train and resource Coordinators in local community organisations.

Local community organisations

(e.g Community Health, local councils)

- Build and maintain relationships with early childhood services
- Train and support educators
- Raise the profile of oral health and healthy eating at a local level.

Early childhood services (ECS)

- Create an environment that supports oral health and healthy eating: learning experiences, policy review, role modelling
- Engage families around oral health and healthy eating and promote local dental services.

Children & their families

- Active participants in developing oral health and healthy eating knowledge and skills.



Linking with other health promotion initiatives



Achievement Program





Partnerships: Local Community Dental Clinic

- Connection between early childhood services and local public dental clinic
- Information provided to early childhood services and families about local public dental clinic
- Outreach dental screenings
- Local public dental clinic excursions





Partnerships: Local Council

- Local Councils are an important local partner in the early years space
- Embedding Smiles 4 Miles or oral health within Council's early years strategy/ies
- Influence policy for council managed Early Childhood Services.





Partnerships: Local Water Authority

- Some Smiles 4 Miles coordinators have connected early childhood services with their local water authority
- Strong alignment with Drink well message “tap water is the preferred drink”
- This partnership reinforces and strengthens the messaging of both partners – enhancing impact

Greater Western Water

Have you had enough water to drink?

Check your wee to see!

		Well done! you're drinking enough water!
		Good work, have a sip of water.
		Have a drink of water.
		Have a big drink of water.

Water is vital to your health, **70%** of your body is made of the stuff!!





Group reflection

- What role could you/ your organisation have in promoting the key messages – Eat well, Drink well and Clean well?
- How could you / your organisation foster partnerships to support oral health?

Children's oral health is everyone's business

