

APPENDIX B

WHY HAVE A POLICY STATEMENT ON ORAL HEALTH?

A policy statement formalises the organisation's commitment to the promotion of the oral health of employees. The statement outlines the framework through which oral health issues can be addressed and initiatives can be developed. A written statement will help raise the awareness of employees to the oral health initiatives in place.

Why a policy statement and not a policy?

- Oral health is already supported within the workplace through the existing policies of alcohol & drugs, tobacco and healthy eating.
- An employer can make small changes within existing structures, which can make real improvements to oral health.

Why is oral health important in the workplace?

- The workplace provides an ideal setting to promote oral health in light of the amount of time employees spend at work.
- Oral health promoting activities are easily introduced with positive benefits to employees
- To reduce time off / sick leave required for dental treatment
- Opportunity to promote family health through employees, leading to a reduction in the need to take time off for family dental treatment

What is a policy statement?

A policy statement outlines the commitment of the organisation to oral health and details the action which will be undertaken to promote the oral health of employees and their families.

ORAL HEALTH POLICY STATEMENT

AIM

To support and promote the oral health of employees and their families.

OBJECTIVES

1. Raise awareness of oral health promoting actions and their benefits to employees

Action Outline*

- Display educational leaflets and resource information on oral health
- Provide staff seminars on oral health and the benefits of improving oral health
- Hold promotional activities during national theme weeks such as National Smile Week

2. Promote and support staff access to dental services

Action Outline*

- Organise shift or flexi working to accommodate staff to attending dental services
- Allow time off for staff to attend dental services at the beginning or end of the working day
- Provide information to staff about dental services located close to work base
- Arrange for staff dental screening
- Promote entitlement to free dental treatment to all staff applying for maternity leave

3. Promote positive oral health practices within the workplace

Action Outline*

- Provide clean and hygienic facilities for toothbrushing
- Provide fluoride containing mouthwash for staff use during the day
- Provide drinking water for staff use during the day

4. Promote positive oral health practices at home

Action Outline*

- Bulk buy toothpaste and toothbrushes to sell at cost price through staff canteen or shop
- Provide family focussed oral health information to staff
- Operate a baby friendly workplace scheme

Date implemented:

Action Outline - insert those action points which will take place in your workplace*