

Global Child Oral Health Taskforce

Guidelines for distribution

Background

The Global Child Oral Health Taskforce (GCOHT) was established in January 2006 in recognition of the need to raise the profile of the oral health agenda and to bring it in line with the general health agenda. On behalf of the GCOHT, Dental Health Services Victoria distributes tooth packs to Victorian communities through select community based programs.

Statement of intent

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for allocating GCOHT tooth packs to children and their families.

Application

This document is intended for professionals (and their associated program) responsible for providing GCOHT tooth packs to children and their families.

Definitions (in the context of these guidelines)

Terms	Means
Global Child Oral Health Taskforce (GCOHT)	A sub group of the Global Child Health Taskforce and a health promotion initiative, providing tooth brushes and pastes to improve the oral health outcomes of children
GCOHT tooth packs	Includes children's toothbrush, adult and children's toothpaste
Professional	Any person that is responsible for distributing the GCOHT tooth packs to children and their families, including health workers, community workers, support workers, educators
Program	Refers to any group, service or organisation that receives the GCOHT tooth packs for the purpose of allocating to children and their families
Family	Consisting of at least one child and one adult who is the primary carer

Guidelines

Professionals responsible for distributing the GCOHT tooth packs to children and their families are required to:

1. Target low income or socially disadvantaged families with poor access to oral health care.
2. Provide children and their families with one or more oral health resources such as *how to guides, fact sheets, tip cards and translated oral health brochures*.
3. If required, provide information to children and their families regarding community dental services.
4. Where appropriate advise families about priority access to general dental care for:
 - Children (0-12 years) and selected young people
 - Homeless people/people at risk of homelessness
 - Pregnant women
 - Refugees and asylum seekers
 - Registered clients of mental health and disability services.
5. Prioritise distribution to families attending one on one consultations (such as a health check) or participating in small groups (such as a supported play group), to ensure targeted distribution.
6. Be familiar with the oral health promoting messages (such as drinking water, healthy eating, and regular dental checks) and how to communicate these to people at high risk of poor oral health.

Further information

Supporting materials can found here: <https://www.dhsv.org.au/oral-health-programs/gcoht>

If you would like to discuss these guidelines please email: healthpromotion@dhsv.org.au