



SA Dental Consumer Advisory Panel

SACOSS Representative: Libby Craft, (formerly Richard Cannon)

The South Australian Dental Consumer Advisory (CAP) is an important way in which the SA Dental Service is able to garner the views and expertise of consumers and consumer advocates in South Australia. The group consists of a varied mix of community sector representatives and individual consumers advocates within the community. The CAP includes representatives from the Financial Counsellors Association, SA Associations of Parents Clubs, Paraquad SA Home Care, Council on the Aging, Multicultural Communities Council of SA, individual members and SACOSS.

The CAP was established by Central Northern Adelaide Health Service (CNAHS) to provide advice from a consumer perspective regarding the key operations of the SA Dental Health Service. The SA dental service through the CAP seeks to garner input into initiatives that directly impact on the public in areas such as:

- Policy
- Programs
- Projects
- Schemes
- Services

The CAP continues to be a valuable way in which SACOSS can engage with the SA Dental Service and advocate for the views of vulnerable South Australians in regards to state government dental health services.

Over the last 12 months the CAP have discussed issues such as:

- South Australia's Oral Health Plan
- Strengthening country services
- Greater access to services
- Providing better information mechanisms to clients
- Reducing waiting lists.
- Client relations Policy
- Teen Dental Plan
- Dental Therapists role change
- Parliamentary Enquiry into Dental Services for Older People
- Accreditation – Under the Australian Council on Health Care Standards.
- Improving other consumer related policy

SACOSS will continue its representation on the SA Dental Consumer Advisory Panel in the New Year with a focus upon rural and remote services, Aboriginal dental health services, the impacts of dental services housed within GP Plus centres, streamlining services to the community, and the continued effects of co-payments for dental services on already disadvantaged and vulnerable South Australians.