DEAR PARENTS,

In Australia, toothache is the number one reason children miss school. We have been providing dental services since 2010.

We offer free assessments and basic dental treatment to students covered under Medicare. If students require ongoing dental treatment they will be referred to the local dentist(s) in the area.

Medicare “Grow up Smiling” Program 2014

From the 1st of January 2014, the Australian Government will introduce a new dental scheme called Grow Up Smiling (GUS) and will provide benefits for basic dental services to around 3.4 million children aged 2-17 years.

This new program will replace the existing Medicare Teen Dental Plan (MTDP) with an expanded program that increases the eligibility age range, benefit amount and the services that can be provided.

The total benefit entitlement will be capped at $1,000 per child over a two calendar year period. Grow Up Smiling (GUS) will have the same means test as the Medicare Teen Dental Plan, which requires receipt of Family Tax Benefit Part A (FTB-A) or certain other government payments.

The schedule of dental services for Grow Up Smiling will consist of services for essential dental treatment, such as check-ups, x-rays, fillings and extractions. High end (crowns, bridges, root canal) and orthodontic items are excluded.

As the payment of benefits will be administered through Medicare, using details held by Centrelink you should ensure that your details are up to date.

Dates for 2014 are 23 June – 18th July. When forms are handed to your son please fill them and return ASAP.