

## Forum: Better access to dental treatments will also lead to broader public health outcomes

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The Singapore Dental Association (SDA) welcomes the Ministry of Health's recent enhancements to dental subsidies and the expanded use of Flexi-MediSave for essential dental treatments ([Higher dental subsidies, more people to be covered under Chas for better oral health](#), March 7).

These initiatives are timely and align with our continual efforts to make oral healthcare more accessible for all Singaporeans.

Financial constraints have long been a barrier to timely dental care, often leading to delayed treatment and more severe oral health issues. Increasing subsidies for basic, preventive and restorative procedures, and allowing Flexi-MediSave for treatments like root canal therapy and permanent crowns will significantly reduce out-of-pocket costs.

We expect these changes to encourage more Singaporeans – particularly the elderly and those eligible for Chas, Pioneer and Merdeka subsidies – to seek early treatment and prevent minor dental issues from escalating into complex, costly conditions.

Oral health is closely linked to overall well-being. Research has shown that untreated dental problems can contribute to systemic conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Poor oral health can also impact nutrition, speech and quality of life. By making essential dental treatments more accessible, these subsidy enhancements not only benefit individuals but also contribute to broader public health outcomes.

With the rising cost of living, these measures provide much-needed financial relief and assurance that dental care remains within reach for all. The SDA appreciates the Government's commitment to supporting Singaporeans in maintaining good oral health and overall well-being.

**Eugene Tang ( Dr)**

President  
Singapore Dental Association