

# Appendix A3: Emergency dental care questionnaire



Patient ID

---

## RELATIVE NEEDS INDEX STUDY

### Emergency Dental Care

---

A study of the need for dental care.

Conducted by:

Social and Preventive Dentistry  
The University of Adelaide  
AUSTRALIA 5005

## Relative Needs Index Study

RESPONSES RECORDED MUST BE THOSE OF THE PATIENT.

1 Please indicate your ■ date of birth:     
day month year

■ sex: Male <sub>1</sub> Female <sub>2</sub>

2 Were you born in Australia? Yes <sub>1</sub> No <sub>2</sub>

If No, (a) in what country were you born?

country

(b) in which year did you first arrive in Australia to live?

year

3 Are you of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin? No <sub>1</sub>  
Yes, Aboriginal <sub>2</sub>  
Yes, Torres Strait Islander <sub>3</sub>

4 What is the postcode of the suburb/area you live in?

5 Which language do you **mainly** speak at home? (Please tick one box)

English	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	Mandarin	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>
Italian	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	Arabic	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub>
Greek	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	Russian	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>8</sub>
Cantonese	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	German	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>9</sub>
Vietnamese	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>	Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>10</sub>

6 Australia's population is made up of many ethnic communities or groups.

With which community or group do you **mainly** identify?

(State only one, eg. Italian. If no ethnic identity, write "none").

\_\_\_\_\_

---

**7** How old were you when you left school? *(Please tick one box)*

- Did not go to school  1
- 14 years or younger  2
- 15 years  3
- 16 years  4
- 17 years  5
- 18 years  6
- 19 years or older  7

---

**8** What is the highest level of education you have attained? *(Please tick one box)*

- Primary School  1
- Some secondary school  2
- Completed secondary school  3
- Some University, higher education  4
- Completed a University, higher education course  5
- Some TAFE, CAE or vocational course  6
- Completed TAFE, CAE or vocational course  7
- Other  8
- Don't know  9

---

**9** (a) Do you have

- Pensioner concession card (full entitlement)?  1
- Pensioner concession card (part entitlement)?  2
- Health care card?  3
- Veterans Affairs Card?  4
- Commonwealth Seniors Health Card?  5

(b) How long have you had your concession card?

- Pensioner concession card (full entitlement)
- Pensioner concession card (part entitlement)
- Health care card
- Veterans Affairs card
- Commonwealth Seniors Health card

- 
- 10** (a) Do you have private dental insurance? Yes  1 → **Go to (b)**  
No  2 → **Go to Q11**

*Q10 continued on next page*

(b) How long have you had private dental insurance?

- |                                 |                            |                              |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Less than 6 months              | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | 2 years to less than 3 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| 6 months to less than 12 months | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | 3 years to less than 5 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| 1 year to less than 2 years     | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | 5 years or more              | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

**11** In the last week, what dental problem has caused you to seek dental care?

- |                      |                            |                                 |                             |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Toothache            | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Sore gums                       | <input type="checkbox"/> 9  |
| Broken/lost filling  | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Ulcer/s                         | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 |
| Broken tooth         | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Accident/incident               | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 |
| Need a filling       | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | Loose denture/s                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 |
| Bleeding gum/teeth   | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | Broken denture/s                | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 |
| Wisdom teeth         | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | Need new denture/s              | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 |
| Need tooth extracted | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 | Headache                        | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 |
| Swelling             | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | Other ( <i>please specify</i> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 |

**12** In the last week, have you had the following problems?

- |   |     |                            |    |                            |                               |
|---|-----|----------------------------|----|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (a) toothache   | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | No | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |                               |
| (b) pain in teeth with hot foods or fluids              | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | No | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |                               |
| (c) pain in teeth with cold foods or fluids             | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | No | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |                               |
| (d) pain in teeth with sweet foods                      | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | No | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |                               |
| (e) pain in jaw while chewing                           | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | No | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |                               |
| (f) pain in jaw when opening mouth wide                 | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | No | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |                               |
| (g) pain which is worse in the middle of the day        | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | No | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |                               |
| (h) pain at night                                       | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | No | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |                               |
| (i) pain in front of ear                                | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | No | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |                               |
| (j) burning sensation in tongue or other parts of mouth | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | No | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |                               |
| (k) shooting pain in face or cheeks                     | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | No | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |                               |
| (l) pain or discomfort from denture                     | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | No | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | NA <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |

---

**13** In the last week, have you had the following problems?

- |   |     |                                       |    |                                       |
|---|-----|---------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------|
| (a) mouth ulcers                        | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (b) cold sores                          | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (c) sore gums                           | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (d) bleeding gums                       | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (e) swelling on gums                    | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (f) bad breath                          | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (g) dryness of mouth                    | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (h) unpleasant taste                    | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (i) changes in ability to taste         | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (j) clicking/grating noise in jaw joint | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (k) swelling of your face or neck       | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (l) a lost filling                      | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (m) a lost crown                        | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (n) a broken filling                    | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (o) a broken crown                      | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (p) a loose tooth                       | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (q) a cracked tooth                     | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (r) high temperature                    | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |

---

**14** In the last week, have you

- |  |     |                                       |    |                                       |
|--|-----|---------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------|
| (a) chipped a tooth?   | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (b) broken a tooth?  | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (c) noticed any visible pink areas on the tooth as a result of a broken tooth? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| (d) broken or chipped a tooth as a result of an accident?                      | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |

---

**15** In the last week, have you experienced pain as a result of problems with your teeth, mouth or dentures?

- Yes <sub>1</sub>  
No <sub>2</sub> → **Go to Q16**

*Q15 continued on next page*

---

(a) If Yes, is this pain

an ache?  1

a throbbing pain?  2

a dull pain?  3

a sharp pain?  4

a burning pain?  5

a shooting pain?  6

(b) Is this pain

constant?  1

intermittent?  2

increasing?  3

decreasing?  4

---

(c) How long have you had this problem?

---

(d) Have you taken any medication to relieve this pain?

Yes  1 → Go to (e), (f) & (g)

No  2 → Go to Q16

---

(e) If Yes, what medication have you taken?

---

(f) Please state the dosage used.

---

(g) How often did you use this medication to relieve pain or discomfort in your teeth or mouth?

Once per day  1

Twice per day  2

Three to four times per day  3

Five to six times per day  4

Six or more times per day  5

---

**16** What category best describes your teeth? (Please tick one box)

Natural teeth only  1 → Go to Q18

Natural teeth and upper denture only  2 → Go to Q17

Natural teeth and lower denture only  3 → Go to Q17

Both upper and lower dentures with some natural teeth  4 → Go to Q17

---

**17** (a) How long ago did you receive your first denture(s)?

Upper denture

Lower denture

(b) How long have you had the denture(s) you wear now?

Upper denture

Lower denture

---

**18** (a) Have you ever had a tooth extracted?

Yes <sub>1</sub> → Go to (b), (c) & (d)

No <sub>2</sub> → Go to Q20

(b) If Yes, why? (eg. wisdom tooth, decay, orthodontic etc)

(c) If Yes, how long has it been since your last extraction?

(d) How many teeth have you had extracted in the past 2 years?

(Number)

---

**19** Have you had a tooth extracted in the last week?

Yes <sub>1</sub> → Go to (a)

No <sub>2</sub> → Go to Q20

---

(a) If Yes, have you experienced any bleeding?

Yes <sub>1</sub> → Go to (b)

No <sub>2</sub> → Go to Q20

---

(b) How often have you had to spit out blood?

Very Often <sub>1</sub>

Fairly Often <sub>2</sub>

Sometimes <sub>3</sub>

Hardly ever <sub>4</sub>

Not at all <sub>5</sub>

---

**20** What is your usual reason for visiting the dentist?

For a regular check-up <sub>1</sub>

For an occasional check-up <sub>2</sub>

When in discomfort/pain <sub>3</sub>

When something needs to be fixed <sub>4</sub>

**21** How long has it been since your last dental visit? *(Please tick one box)*

- |                                |                          |   |                              |                          |   |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Less than 12 months            | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | 3 years to less than 5 years | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
| 12 months to less than 2 years | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 5 years or more              | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 |
| 2 years to less than 3 years   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | Never                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 |
- Go to Q26

**22** Where was your last dental visit? *(Please tick one box)*

- |  |                          |   |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| Private practice                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| Public hospital/clinic                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| School Dental Service                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| Dental technician                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
| Health Fund                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 |
| Prison, corrective/detention institution | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 |
| Other                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 |
| Don't know                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 |

**23** How often do you usually go to the dentist? *(Please tick one box)*

- |                          |                          |   |                      |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| More than 2 times a year | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | Once every 2 years   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
| Two times a year         | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | Once every 5 years   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 |
| Once a year              | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | Less often than that | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 |

**24** In which country was your last dental visit? *(Please tick one box)*

- |                               |                          |   |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Australia                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| Other <i>(please specify)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
- 

**25** What dental treatment did you receive at your last dental visit/s? *(Please tick one or more boxes)*

- |                     |                          |   |   |                          |    |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|----|
| None                | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | Gum Treatment                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8  |
| Check-up            | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | Teeth straightened/braces               | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9  |
| Dental filling      | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | New or replacement dentures             | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 |
| Amalgam replacement | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | Teeth cleaned                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 |
| Root canal filling  | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 | Whitening/bleaching                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 |
| Crown               | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 | Denture repair                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 |
| Tooth extracted     | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 | Other treatment <i>(please specify)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 |
-



**26** Do you think that dental treatments can help make your teeth and mouth more healthy? *(Please tick one box)*

- Yes/absolutely  1  
 Probably/sometimes  2  
 No  3  
 Don't know  4

For Q27 to Q29 please *circle* one number in each line to indicate the patient's level of agreement or disagreement with each statement.

**27** During the last week, how often have pain, discomfort, or other problems with your teeth, mouth or dentures caused you to ...

	All the time	Very often	Fairly often	Some-times	Never	
have difficulty sleeping?	1	2	3	4	5	
stay home more than usual?	1	2	3	4	5	
stay in bed more than usual?	1	2	3	4	5	
take time off work?	1	2	3	4	5	NA

*Q27 continued on next page*

	All the time	Very often	Fairly often	Some-times	Never
be unable to do household chores?	1	2	3	4	5
avoid your usual leisure activities?	1	2	3	4	5

**28** During the last week, how often have you worried about ...

	All the time	Very often	Fairly often	Some-times	Never
the appearance of your teeth or mouth?	1	2	3	4	5
the health of your teeth or mouth?	1	2	3	4	5

**29**

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
How would you rate your general health?	1	2	3	4	5
How would you rate your oral health?	1	2	3	4	5

- 
- 30** (a) Do you take any regular medication? Yes <sub>1</sub> → Go to (b)  
No <sub>2</sub> → Go to Q31
- (b) Was this medication recommended by a health care provider? Yes <sub>1</sub>  
No <sub>2</sub>
- 

- 31** Imagine you had an appointment to go to the dentist tomorrow, how would you feel about it? *(Please tick one box)*
- I would look forward to it as a reasonably enjoyable experience <sub>1</sub>  
I wouldn't care one way or the other <sub>2</sub>  
I would be a little uneasy about it <sub>3</sub>  
I would be afraid that it would be unpleasant and painful <sub>4</sub>  
I would be very frightened of what the dentist might do <sub>5</sub>
- 

- 32** Imagine you are waiting in the dentist's waiting room for your turn in the chair, how would you feel? *(Please tick one box)*
- Relaxed <sub>1</sub>  
A little uneasy <sub>2</sub>  
Tense <sub>3</sub>  
Anxious <sub>4</sub>  
So anxious that I sometimes break out in a sweat or almost feel physically sick <sub>5</sub>
- 

- 33** Imagine you are in the chair waiting while the dentist gets the drill ready to begin working on your teeth, how would you feel? *(Please tick one box)*
- Relaxed <sub>1</sub>  
A little uneasy <sub>2</sub>  
Tense <sub>3</sub>  
Anxious <sub>4</sub>  
So anxious that I sometimes break out in a sweat or almost feel physically sick <sub>5</sub>
- 

- 34** Imagine you are in the dentist's chair to have your teeth cleaned. While you are waiting and the dentist is getting out the instruments to be used to scrape your teeth around the gums, how would you feel? *(Please tick one box)*
- Relaxed <sub>1</sub>  
A little uneasy <sub>2</sub>  
Tense <sub>3</sub>  
Anxious <sub>4</sub>  
So anxious that I sometimes break out in a sweat or almost feel physically sick <sub>5</sub>

**35** How characteristic of you are the following statements? (Please circle one of the numbers in each line)

	Uncharacteristic of me			Characteristic of me		
	very	rather	somewhat	somewhat	rather	very
I am quick to express an opinion when it comes to my dental health care needs.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I usually think my needs are not as important as other people's needs.	1	2	3	4	5	6
If treatment is not to my satisfaction, I let the dentist know I am not happy.	1	2	3	4	5	6
If the service received is not to my satisfaction, I complain to dental staff.	1	2	3	4	5	6

**36** Was this interview done by proxy? Yes <sub>1</sub> No <sub>2</sub>

**INTERVIEWER'S COMMENTS**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your co-operation and time in answering this questionnaire.*