



PROMOTION GROUP

NOHPG

NATIONAL ORAL HEALTH



ELECTION MANIFESTO

June 2024 Oral Health Improvement

National Oral Health
Promotion Group.



Oral Health Improvement must remain a priority in the pending election.

The National Oral Health Promotion Group (NOHPG) is the national home for oral health practitioners, oral health promoters and oral health educators and members of the oral health improvement teams formed in 1980.

The founding principles of the group are to:

- Promote communication between members and agencies active in oral health improvement.
- Support the introduction of evaluation and evidence based practice.
- Establish and coordinate a support network for people working in the field of oral health improvement.

Call to political parties

It is against this backdrop that the NOHPG sets out this manifesto calling on all political parties to commit to addressing oral health inequalities and supporting targeted evidence based interventions, to improve oral health across the life-course for individuals and communities alike. This must include the most vulnerable in society.

It is vital in any of the decisions made that the social determinants of health and health behaviours have a central place.

To this end, oral health wellness is vital for the health and wellbeing of the nation and yet there are areas of the country that remain underserved or without oral health teams in the community and this is unacceptable.



NOHPG in principle are in support of many of the plans that will lead to a reduction in oral health inequalities.

The NOHPG do however seek to remind the political parties that these commitments must be part of a bigger picture and that if applied in isolation, it is unlikely that the challenges that we are currently experiencing will be resolved.



We acknowledge that there has been some incredible research undertaken and with some well-founded outcomes suggesting that it is time to be innovative and creative, allowing the profession to work to their full capabilities, with the public's best interest and oral health at heart.

To this end we call on the political parties to consult with the NOHPG and look at ways that oral health practitioners can further contribute to the ultimate goal of a greater provision of oral health improvement, for those who need it the most. We also call for a support network for allied healthcare professionals who can contribute in making every contact count, especially through the delivery of the key oral health messages found in the guidance document 'Delivering Better Oral Health: an evidence-based toolkit for prevention' (2021). This toolkit supports those within oral health improvement teams and those allied professionals with essential messaging and often early care and management of:

The toolkit includes:

- Behaviour change
- Dental caries
- Periodontal diseases
- Oral cancer
- Tooth wear
- Oral hygiene
- Fluoride
- Healthy Eating
- Smoking and tobacco use and
- Alcohol



We support:

- The commitment to supervised toothbrushing for 3-5 five year olds.
- The commitment universal fluoridation water fluoridation schemes.
- The provision of fluoride varnish programmes.
- Inovative and creative development of the oral and dental workforce.

We would like to see::

- Greater investment in the oral health improvement teams.
- Greater access to oral health improvement teams.
- Engagement with oral health improvement teams.
- Recognition and expansion of existing oral health improvement programmes.
- Better collaborations between allied health teams and oral health improvement teams.

Policies that will support oral health improvent

- **Universal water fluoridation**
- **Smoking and Vapes Bill** - smokefree generation.
- **Sugar Tax** - expanding this beyond sugary drinks, to all drinks containing sugar and to work collaborately with breakfast cereal companies to reduce the sugar content.
- **Alcohol** - introduction of minimum unit pricing.
- **Sustainability Indexing** - outlining opportunities to reducing carbon emissions and encouraging sustainable oral hygiene practices.

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