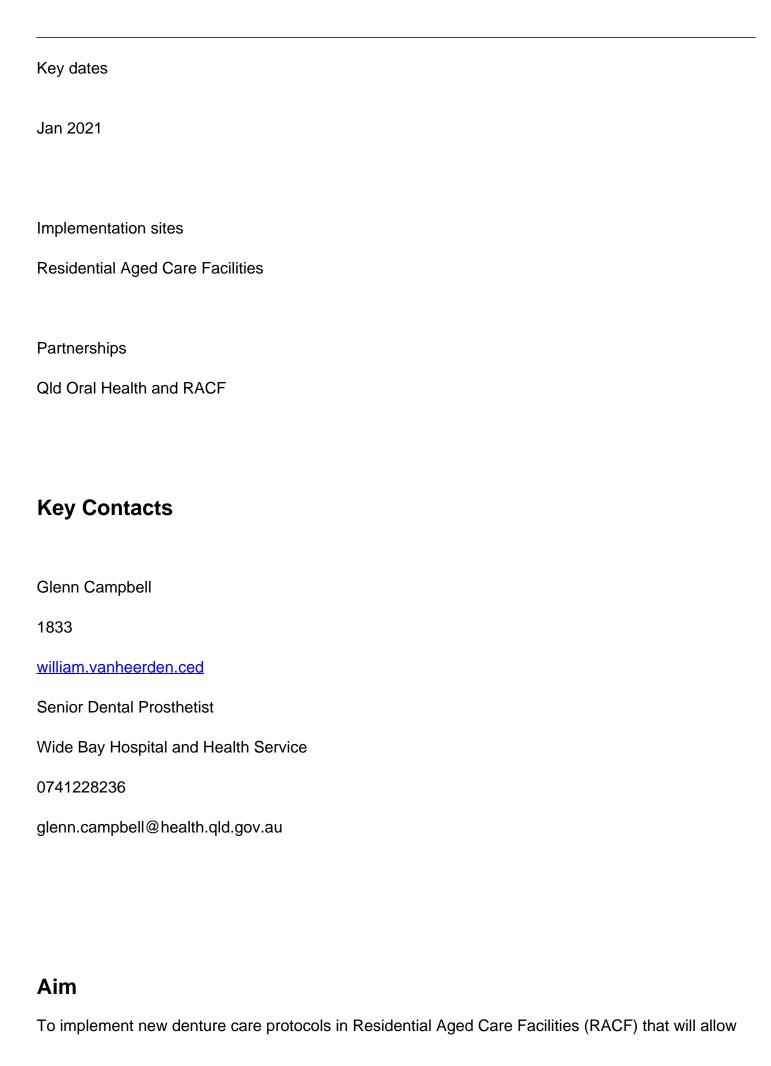
# Denture hygiene in Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs) Initiative Type Model of Care Status Deliver Added 24 August 2021 Last updated 24 April 2024 **URL** https://cnxp3cuvtvrn68yjaibaht5ywrxspj7m.clinicalexcellence.qld.gov.au/improvementexchange/denture-hygiene-residential-aged-care-facilities-racfs

# **Summary**

By implementing new care protocols, Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service has ensured that dentures are cleaned to remove pathogen laden plaque and biofilm, with additional benefits including improved resident self-esteem and staff compliance.



for dentures to be cleaned to remove pathogen laden plaque and biofilm and reduce the incidence of aspiration pneumonia and subsequent hospitalisation.

#### **Benefits**

- resident self-esteem
- compliance by carers and nursing staff
- reduction in Emergency Department (ED) admissions and hospitalisations from aspiration pneumonia related illness

### **Background**

- Denture Hygiene is paramount to the overall health of residents of aged care facilities and can contribute to the reduction of hospitalisations from pneumonia related illness.
- Research shows that overall improved oral health reduces pneumonia.

## **Solutions Implemented**

Dentures are placed in a plaque and tartar remover solution (sold commercially) and then in an ultrasonic cleaner for the required period.

This method is the only one that removes all plaque and biofilm that normal commercial cleaners fail to do.

#### **Evaluation and Results**

An immediate difference was visible, with carers and nursing staff more willing to participate in denture hygiene if a result is achievable.

#### **Lessons Learnt**

Important to engage stakeholders to ensure understand importance of oral care in RACF. This is only one step towards complete Oral Care, and it involves other disciplines such as dentists and nursing staff to complete the circle.

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