



20 years of Smiles 4 Miles

Starting as a 4-year pilot program in 2004, Smiles 4 Miles has grown into a successful statewide oral health promotion program, targeting areas at greater risk of oral disease.

The program promotes three key messages: **Drink well**, **Eat well**, and **Clean well**.



It's so good that the **health messages reach the children, staff, and the families**. It's important the message continues at home."

- Raj, early years educator, Morobe St Children's Centre

By **partnering with local community organisations**, Smiles 4 Miles has supported early childhood services across Victoria to integrate oral health into their practices and settings, improving the oral health of children, families and the entire service community.



Year after year, Smiles 4 Miles is **welcomed by the children, their parents and carers and services**."

- Longest serving coordinator, Tanya, Northern District Community Health



20 years of growth (2004 - 2023)

Growth in annual reach

Early childhood services engaged **annually**

16 ▶ 775
2004 2023

Children reached **annually**

776 ▶ 60,000+
2004 2023

Program spread

The program began in 3 areas across Victoria. It is now run in 55 LGAs.

Longest serving funded sites (commenced 2005):

- Ballarat Community Health
- Central Highlands Rural Health (formerly Hepburn Health)



Total early childhood services engaged: **9,500+**



Total children reached: **579,000+**



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20 years of Smiles 4 Miles

Over the last 10 years...

Local workforces have been supported to integrate oral health into their practice.



6,500+

non-oral health professionals received **training**



Over the last 5 years...

Early childhood services are supported to partner with local community dental agencies to provide outreach screening and prevention services.

Nearly **30,000***

children received **outreach screening** at their early childhood service



*This number was impacted by COVID19

40%

of children screened received **fluoride varnish applications** as part of the visit



Over **43%**

of early childhood services achieved their **Smiles 4 Miles award**



You came and looked at our teeth. It was a **fun day** at kinder.”

- Ruby, 5 y.o. preschooler



Having the dental checkups really helps, as I have anxiety about visiting the dentist. So I love that the dentist visits the Centre. It has really helped us to feel **more comfortable to follow up with ongoing dental visits.**”

- Parent of 4 y.o. preschooler



Over 7,000

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families have been reached in the last **4 years.**



These sites achieved an award rate **above 85%:**

- Swan Hill District Health
- South West Healthcare
- Dhelkaya Health
- Northeast Health Wangaratta
- Corangamite Shire
- Seymour Health/Lower Hume PCP



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