

**Date:**

3 October 2006

**Subject****NIB Opens Dental Care Centre in Wollongong**

Dental care services in Wollongong were expanded today with NIB Health Funds Limited (NIB) opening a Dental Care Centre in the city's Crown Street Mall. Member for Wollongong Ms Noreen Hay and NIB's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Mark Fitzgibbon will officially open the new facility at a launch event this evening. The new architecturally-designed facility is NIB's first Dental Care Centre in Wollongong.

NIB's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Mark Fitzgibbon said the Centre signals an exciting new era for the health fund in the region.

"Our new Dental Care Centre features seven dental surgeries equipped with the latest technology in patient and dental health care," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

"The Dental Centre is open to everyone however NIB members benefit from no out-of-pocket expenses on two annual check ups, and scale and cleans".

The Dental Care Centre will operate the most technologically-advanced equipment, including a computerised sterilisation tracking system for dental equipment that will ensure patients receive best practice in terms of dental hygiene.

The bar-coding system allows dentists to electronically track the use of equipment to ensure all sterilisation procedures are met. Mr Fitzgibbon said that demand at the new Dental Centre has already surpassed expectations.

"The response to the Centre has been overwhelming with more than 1000 bookings made prior to opening.

"We are very optimistic that the Centre will be well received by new and existing members and will provide people in the Wollongong area with an outstanding dental service."

Member for Wollongong, Ms Noreen Hay welcomed NIB's expansion in the region.

"I am always pleased when companies invest in the region, particularly in services that can benefit the community," Ms Hay said.

"NIB is an industry leader and this new Dental Care Centre will provide the Wollongong community with best practice in terms of dental health care."

Mr Fitzgibbon also said that the health fund will continue to expand its services offered at the Centre over the coming months.

"We will be relocating our Eye Care Centre to the new Crown Street Mall location before the end of the year, providing members with a one-stop-shop for all dental and eye care needs," he said.

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# Media Release

NIB is Australia's fastest growing health fund and the nation's sixth largest private health insurer. The company currently provides value-for-money health cover to over 40,000 people in the Wollongong area.

The NIB Dental Care Centre at 104 Crown Street Mall Wollongong will operate Monday to Friday (8.30am – 5.30pm) and Saturdays (8.30am – 5.30pm). Appointments can be made by telephoning 1300 345 300.

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