

**TASKFORCESUBMISSION:** submission

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**POSITION:** Reseach Director

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**SUBMISSION1:** Over 11 million people suffer new decay each year, 38% of Australians have untreated decay and most cavities occur between the age of 12 and 21.

Even though most food is left trapped between teeth after every meal or snack, over 80% of cavities occur inside pits and fissures on chewing surfaces where saliva and fluoride toothpaste have no access to neutralise acid and remineralise demineralised tooth.

"Approximately \$3.7 billion was spent on dental services in the year 2001-02"; but berry little on prevention.

It is over 30 years since the introduction of fluoridation and even with the help of state and national dental health projects, a world class efficient professional workforce and a \$304 million oral hygiene industry, tooth decay though greatly reduced, is still the most common disease. More funding is necessary to improve evidence based preventive strategies.

The Supertooh and Good Food Friends dental health project has identified some evidence based areas that make sense and can be demonstrated with glass model of a tooth and other teaching aids. [www.supertoohndk.org](http://www.supertoohndk.org)

**PRIVACY:** yes

**SUBMIT:** Submit