Australia: Oral health at stake in federal election
Health experts demand better access to public dental services

HONG KONG/LEIPZIG, Germany: Health experts in Australia have called for oral health to be a greater priority in the upcoming federal election. In a statement released by the National Oral Health Alliance, a non-governmental body comprised of several dental and health organisations, they also called for the development of a sustainable dental workforce to allow people better access to oral health care services.

Currently, Australians who are in need of public dental health-care services have to wait for long periods before they receive treatment. In some parts of the country, patients have to wait between one to two years. As a consequence, figures suggest that one in three Australians decide to delay or avoid dental treatment altogether.

The incumbent Labor Party led by Prime Minister Julia Gillard has been opposed by the Coalition of the Liberal Party and National Party. A recent study by Harvard University in the United States has revealed that eating fruit daily is the best way to whiten teeth. Through a three-month clinical study, it was found that strawberries, orange peels, and lemon juice have a natural ingredient that developed the law did not fairly represent all stakeholders in the issue and that the law would give victims the right to sue even after they have received compensation.

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PM Julia Gillard (middle) at a rally in Tamworth, New South Wales. (DTI/Photo courtesy of DPMC, Australia)

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