Subsidised dental care for adults on low incomes

This page summarises the options available in Canterbury for adults who need lower-cost dental care.

Urgent care

A dental emergency is defined as mouth pain, swelling or an infection that’s bad enough to cause you significant disruption.

Relief of Pain Clinic at the Hospital Dental Service

This is available Monday to Friday between 8 am and 5 pm at the Relief of Pain Clinic at the Hospital Dental Service for all New Zealand residents over the age of 65 and those on a WINZ benefit. Treatment is subsidised and costs up to $45 an appointment. To book an appointment, phone (03) 364-0250. You can refer yourself to this clinic, you don't have to see your GP. The Hospital Dental Service is at 2 Oxford Terrace.

Subsidised urgent care from a private dentist

Some private dentists have a contract with Canterbury DHB to provide subsidised urgent care for people who have a Community Services Card. To be eligible for subsidised emergency treatment, you must live in Canterbury or the West Coast and have a current Community Services Card.

Emergency dental care is a one-off treatment of the problem. If you need further dental care, you’ll have to pay the dentist’s usual fees for this.

Participating dental practices allow for a 30-minute visit. During this time, a dentist will assess the problem and provide any necessary dental treatment.

If the dentist decides the condition doesn’t meet the definition of a dental emergency, they’ll charge their usual fees.

You'll have to pay a co-payment of up to $40 for a visit under this scheme.

Participating dental practices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colombo Street Dental</td>
<td>201 Colombo St, Sydenham, Christchurch</td>
<td>(03) 337-4596</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darfield Dental</td>
<td>42 South Tce, Darfield</td>
<td>(03) 318-8392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentistry on Parkside</td>
<td>80 Park St, Ashburton</td>
<td>(03) 308-7472</td>
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<tr>
<td>G&amp;E Dental</td>
<td>369 Main South Rd, Hornby, Christchurch</td>
<td>0800-433-368</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>52 Charles St, Rangiora</td>
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<td>66 Rolleston Dr, Rolleston</td>
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<td>Chertsey Rd, Methven</td>
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WINZ emergency grant
WINZ beneficiaries can apply for an emergency grant of up to $300 to pay for urgent dental care with any dentist. Talk to the dentist about applying for the grant before you start treatment.

ACC
ACC will contribute towards the cost of treatment for teeth damaged in accidents. Phone 0800–101–996 for more information.

Non-urgent care
Hospital Dental Service
You can ask a health professional to refer you to the Hospital Dental Service if you're a WINZ beneficiary and you need all your teeth taken out or all your top teeth or bottom teeth taken out. The service also provides subsidised care for adults with special needs or very complex medical problems that mean they can’t get dental care in the community.

UCSA dental scheme
Students at the University of Canterbury can access the University of Canterbury Student Association’s subsidised dental scheme.

Charity Hospital
WINZ beneficiaries in Christchurch who've used up their emergency grants for dental care can get a free, single course of treatment at the Canterbury Charity Hospital. You must be referred by a dentist.