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## Long in the tooth pain

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At least one in two senior Australians are delaying dental appointments, with the majority revealing they can't afford vital treatment.

The damning New Australian Dental Association survey comes as emergency department presentations for painful dental issues among over 65s are projected to soar over the next three years.

Dental care is set to become an election issue, with the Greens expected to push for it to be included in Medicare if they hold a balance of power.

ADA president Dr Chris Sanzaro said 16,000 seniors were admitted to hospital for painful dental issues in 2022-23, a number expected to rise to 22,630 by 2027-28.