

Vulnerable Peoples Program (VPP)



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Title

Improving Oral Health Equity for High-Risk Populations

Introduction

There is inequitable access to public oral healthcare for vulnerable populations, including older adults living independently or in Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF), individuals experiencing social disadvantage, and those with complex medical conditions, disabilities, or mental health conditions (1,2).

Model of Care

Approach & Delivery:

- Patient-centric care via outreach and recall

Key Initiatives:

- RACF Cooinda House
- Older people (90+) living at home Kallangur Satellite Dental Clinic (KSDC)
- Cardiac clearances TPCH Dental Clinic
- Specialist Special Needs KSDC/RDC
- Mental Health inpatient TPCH DC
- Homeless & community outreach programs

Way Forward

GPOHS intends to expand this program across the wider Metro North Health Service.

- Grow 90 Plus Program across all clinics
- Strengthen preventive care in RACF & older people
- Expand multidisciplinary and specialist care for complex patients

Conclusion

Direct access

Strong follow-up

Improving access and providing earlier oral care makes a real difference for vulnerable patients, helping prevent disease and improve overall health outcomes.

Objective

- To improve access to oral health services for vulnerable groups including older people 90+, RACF, mental health, homeless, special needs, complex medical and dental conditions
- Reduce wait times and oral health disease progression
- Deliver patient-centric, collaborative care

Key Focus

Priority Groups:

Older people (90+), mental health, homelessness, cardiac & special needs

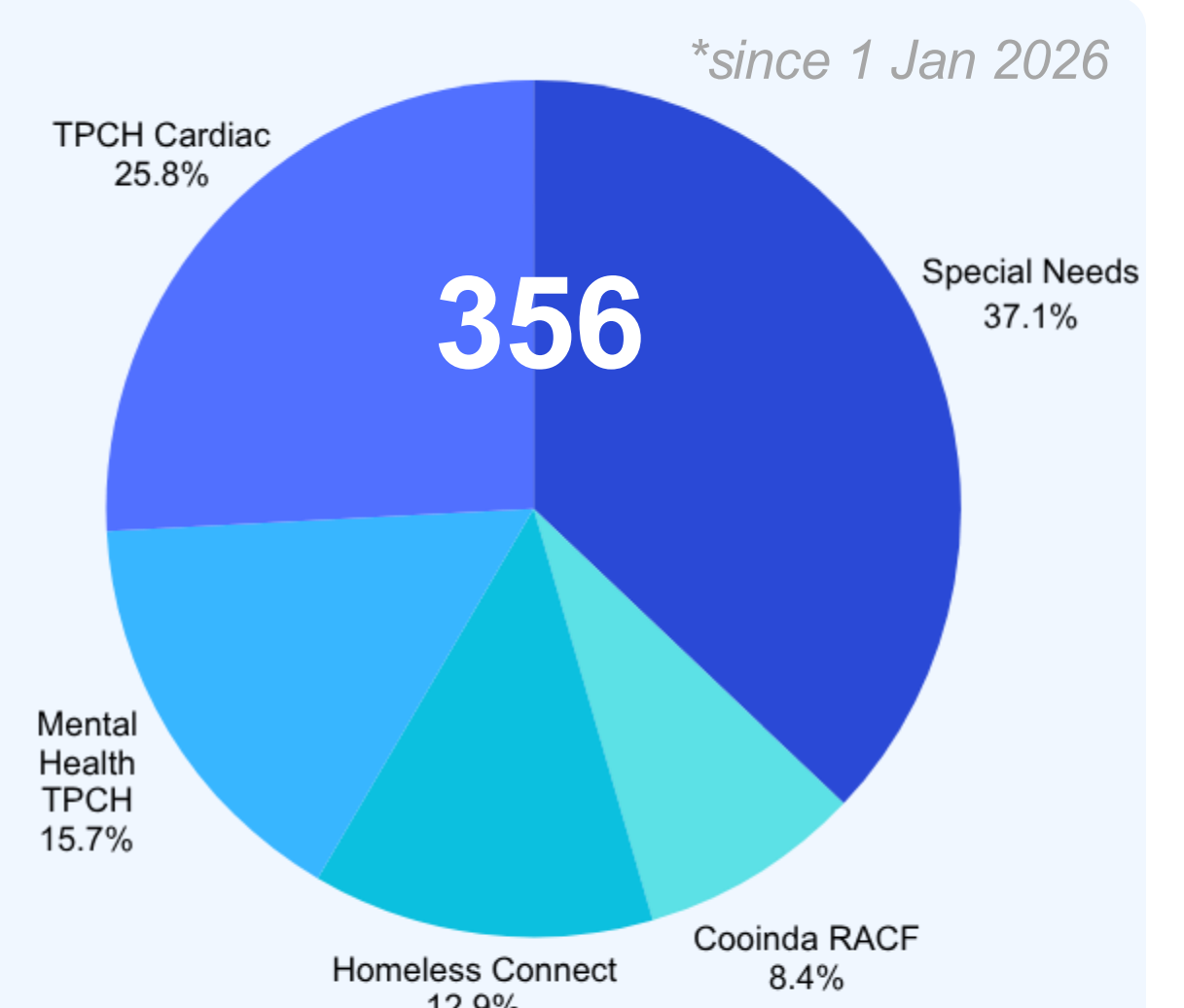
Complexity:

Medical, psychosocial, dental, physical, disability & access barriers

Settings:

Aged care, hospital, community, dental clinics

Engagement



100%

Referrals accepted from TPCH MH service

88%

Special needs Pts seen within recall timeframe

100%

RACF Pts requesting care were treated

80%

Homeless Pts accessed further care

100%

TPCH Cardiac referrals seen before surgery

1. Australian Government Department of Health 2016, Healthy mouths, healthy lives: Australia's National Oral Health Plan 2015–2024, Australian Government, Canberra.

2. Metro North Health Service 2026, Community and Oral Health, General Practice Oral Health Division, Service Plan 2026