

Chewable Devices Funding Rationale

Chewable Devices help people live their life or makes life better

The use of a chewable device improves the lives of people with (but not limited to):

- Autism
- ADHD
- Anxiety
- Sensory Processing Disorder
- Stroke patients
- Individuals learning to chew and feed
- Individuals that chew/mouth/eat unsafe items
- Individuals who refuse to undertake oral hygiene tasks

Chewable devices:

- (a) Are used to calm in times of high stress, anxiety and de-escalation of behaviour
- (b) Keep individuals calm to carry out their daily activities, enabling greater independence and confidence in the community
- (c) Enables self-soothing in times of anxiety or stress, increasing independence at home and in the community
- (d) Enable users to feel more “grounded” or “present” or focused to carry out daily tasks at home and in the community
- (e) Help prevent infection where individuals bite or suck on their hands, fingers or arms
- (f) Help those who are sensitive to oral stimulation. They are used to desensitise the mouth, lips, and facial areas to enable better feeding
- (g) Are used in situations where an individual is transitioning from tube feeding to being fed orally
- (h) Encourages chewing movements for those who are learning to take solid food
- (i) Decreases sensitivity for those who find it difficult to tolerate teeth brushing and other oral hygiene tasks
- (j) Are used to direct the individual’s attention to certain areas of the mouth for generating speech sounds and improving speech articulation

Chewable Devices are an additional disability support

- (a) Using a chewable device is a strategy in behaviour management and behaviour de-escalation. They provide a calming preventative strategy in a positive way, which is safer than resorting to physical restraint and isolation
- (b) Chewable devices are used to decrease the level of harm in situations where individuals bite others when frustrated, anxious, or stressed. A chewable device is a safer, appropriate alternative

- (c) Chewable devices are specifically designed for people with high oral needs. They provide a dignified and a more socially appropriate way of allowing users to meet their oral needs
- (d) Reduces the need for individuals to seek items in the environment to chew that are potentially hazardous
- (e) Chewable Devices are tools used to increase the engagement of necessary oral hygiene tasks where individuals refuse or are reluctant

Chewable Devices are reasonable and cost effective

- (a) Purchasing of a chewable device has benefits across the day and is used as needed
- (b) Chewable devices can be used across multiple settings to provide consistency and enable independence in the community
- (c) Chewable devices are reusable and washable
- (d) The medical and personal costs associated with infection (where parts of the body are chewed) reduce over time with the use of a chewable device
- (e) Chewable Devices reduce the potential costs of poor oral hygiene and invasive dental treatment

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