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 urged all political parties to make oral health 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 in three Australians decide to delay or avoid dental treatment altogether.

The incumbent Labor Party led by Prime Minister Julia Gillard claimed to have delivered more than 850,000 dental check-ups to teenagers under 16 free of charge. In the issue and that the law would fairly represent all stakeholders in the issue and that the law would fairly represent all stakeholders. Additional patients’ rights organisations, there are between 10,000 and 50,000 cases of medical negligence every year in Thailand, of which only a small percentage ends up in court. Over 97 percent of the registered complaints were filed against state hospitals last year, according to figures from the National Health Security Office in Bangkok.

Malpractice bill dismissed by Thai doctors

Medical and dental professionals in Thailand are opposing a new law that aims to give victims of medical negligence more rights without having to go to court. In a public letter to Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, doctors and dentists stated that the committee 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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France and the US go digital fast

Dental markets in France and the US are worldwide leaders in the adoption of digital sensors, according to a US market report. While France has a high penetration rate of almost 75 per cent, US practices are undergoing a rapid transition from analogic film to digital technology, which will have a dramatic impact on the US dental imaging market, the report states.

Intraoral X-ray procedures are the most common type of dental X-ray nowadays as they are typically performed in annual check-ups. Dental practitioners can choose between analogue film, photostimulable phosphor and digital systems.

Digital sensors are able to take and upload X-ray images of teeth to a computer immediately, which eliminates the labour necessary for the development of physical film. By reducing film loss, digital imaging also reduces the total number of X-rays taken and in turn decreases patient exposure to radiation.