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## **A cross-national oral health policy comparative analysis of access to oral healthcare between a developed (Australia) and a developing country (South Africa)**

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**Background:** Oral healthcare forms part of a complex healthcare system. Access to oral healthcare may be restricted or enhanced by the availability of oral healthcare human and structural resources.

**Aim:** The aim of this paper was to undertake a comparative oral health policy analysis in order to understand the current debates around access to oral health services between a developed country (Australia) and a developing country (South Africa).

**Methods:** A conceptual framework, based on the four major policy analysis constructs (context, content, process and implementation), was used to comparatively analyze Australian and South African oral health policies pertaining to access to oral healthcare. Data relating to each of the constructs was gathered and thematically analyzed. A comparative oral health policy analysis was then undertaken.

**Results:** The results reveal that there are highly complex and multifactorial opportunities and barriers in access to oral healthcare. Both Australia and South Africa experience opportunities and barriers in accessing oral healthcare that has various local influences. This leads to unequal access for the disadvantaged members of society, and results in them receiving minimal access to the required oral healthcare.

**Discussion:** Reductions in social inequalities (such as income disparities, education) require that differences in resource allocation need to occur. Policy interventions need to be directed towards facilitating access and oral healthcare for the population that requires access to this care.

**Conclusion:** Access to oral healthcare is influenced by the availability of oral health human resources and infrastructure. Greater efforts need to be put in place by stakeholders to address the opportunities and barriers that may lead to improved oral health outcomes.

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## **Empowering communication in dentistry using the C.L.E.A.R method**

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Being able to convey your message effectively is key to any industry. May it be writing a job order to send to the dental laboratory for the fabrication of your dental prosthesis, being a keynote speaker in a dental congress, giving an instruction to your dental nurse, or talking to your patients about a specific treatment and giving them pre-operative or postoperative instructions are all under communication. However, this is the most underrated area in dentistry that dental professionals do not get specific trainings to be good communicators and because of that, it can result to a failed treatment or transaction. With that in mind, I devised the C.L.E.A.R method that can easily be applied in all areas of dentistry, because this method was tailored specifically for the dental field. C.L.E.A.R stands for Clarity, Listening, Effective Description, Assess background and Respect. I will discuss each part of the method in detail and will be applying it in dentistry for better understanding. In this fast-paced world that attention span of people are getting shorter every day, a brief yet comprehensive message is vital for a successful communication. Keeping things short and simple and yet being able to keep the vital points of a message is what we want to achieve in the CLEAR method.

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