

## **Healthy Ageing**

# **Be Wise about** your **Oral Health!**

Good oral health is essential for healthy ageing and a healthy mouth will improve general well-being and quality of life.





#### **HEALTHY AGEING**

Visit your dental team once a year, even if you have no teeth of your own, for advice and a check up to prevent tooth decay, gum disease and bad breath.

#### **Tooth Tips**

- Always brush teeth twice a day at bedtime and one other time for 2-3 mins
- Use a soft/medium toothbrush with a fluoride toothpaste (at least 1,000ppm)
- Spit, don't rinse after brushing
- Floss daily. Ask your dental team for advice on technique
- If you wear dentures, clean them daily. Use a soft toothbrush to clean your tongue and roof of your mouth
- Change your toothbrush when bristles are worn

#### **Diet**

- Choose healthy snacks and drinks between meals such as whole fruits. Limit sweets, chocolate, biscuits and sugary drinks to mealtimes
- Unflavoured milk and water are the best drinks
- Limit fruit juice or fruit smoothies to a small glass once a day, with a meal and always choose
- Read food labels for sugar content. Less than 5g per 100g is low sugar.
- Choose sugar free medicines

### **General Tip**

- Saliva substitutes and sipping ice water can help relieve dry mouth.

Smoking and alcohol are risk factors for mouth cancer

