The Territory Government is to boost funding for oral health in next week’s budget by $400,000.

Minister for Health and Community Services, Jane Aagaard, says the increased spending is the first stage of an upgrade of oral health services across the Territory.

"This is the first significant increase in oral health funding in many years."

"Good oral health is essential for general health and well being."

Mrs Aagaard said the $400,000 will be used to employ an additional dental team and dental therapist in the Top End as well as another dentist in Central Australia.

"The importance of oral health cannot be overstated."

"Research in recent years has shown links between poor oral health and chronic diseases such as diabetes, renal disease and cardiovascular disease."

"It can also lead to low birth weights, premature births and poor nutrition."

Mrs Aagaard said the extra funding will also be used to fund improved infection control measures through the use of appropriate disposables.

"The new positions will also improve the delivery of children’s dental services to East Arnhem communities."