

# PLASTIC STATISTICS FACTSHEET

WHICH OF THESE STATISTICS WILL HELP YOU WITH YOUR CHALLENGE? THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT WHICH STATISTICS YOU WILL USE.



- Every year, around 30 million toothbrushes get thrown away in Australia.
- Plastic was invented at the turn of the 20th century.
- Around 40% of all plastic production is used for packaging.
- Nearly every piece of plastic ever made still exists today. Other waste materials (e.g. paper or glass) will eventually break down. However, plastic just breaks into smaller and smaller pieces - it never truly breaks down.
- After 3 months of use, toothbrushes are much less effective at cleaning teeth and gums compared to new ones.
- The average plastic toothbrush weighs between 15 to 20 grams. Biodegradable toothbrushes can weigh between 10 to 25 grams.
- A plastic toothbrush costs around \$2.00 to \$4.00, an electric toothbrush costs approximately \$35.00, and a biodegradable toothbrush costs approximately \$6.00.
- Microplastics are very tiny pieces of plastic that measure less than 5 mm in diameter. Microplastics are found in some toothpastes.
- Each year marine waste (i.e. waste in the oceans) kills at least 100,000 marine animals and 1 million seabirds.
- There are just over 24,000,000 people in Australia.