

# Activity Report 2023

Australian  
Dental  
Foundation





Cover photo - ADF Dental Assistant, Olivia with children from Christies Beach Primary School.

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## **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of Australia and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

## About Us

ADF is a national award-winning health promotion charity, passionately committed to improving Australia's oral health outcomes and wellbeing.

Our programs help to address inequalities in oral health through expanding access to compassionate, quality and professional oral health care for those who suffer the greatest burden of oral disease in Australia.

Our programs target support for at-risk cohorts including children, adolescents, seniors, and people with specialised health care needs.

# We envision a decay-free future, one tooth at a time.

Every day we are improving outcomes for the most vulnerable by delivering programs and support to optimise early detection and correction of oral health diseases.

Our team is proud to empower patients with the knowledge, tools and confidence to attain good oral health.

We know that many aspects of oral disease can be prevented by optimising early detection and correction, so we are out onsite at kindergartens, schools, aged care facilities and disability service providers.

Every day we proactively work toward realising our vision for a decay-free future, one tooth at a time by:

- È Facilitating and expanding access to timely and adequate dental care for at-risk Australians.
- È Promoting good oral hygiene and nutrition through educational programs.
- È Advocating for improved oral health services and outcomes for Australians.

## Our Impact

More than  
**73,000**  
Australians supported

More than  
**7,220**  
Tele-Dental consults provided to Australians living within regional/remote communities

**2,145**  
sites visited

More than  
**1,400**  
oral health education sessions delivered

More than  
**\$13.1 million**  
value of oral health care services provided



More than  
**36,700**  
hours of work conducted

Since inception in 2016

Australian Dental Foundation has so far delivered more than **\$13.1 million worth of dental services** in the past 7.5 years alone to help prevent oral disease and to improve the oral health and quality of life for Australians.

Through our programs and public education, we are making a life-long impact by empowering more than **73,000 Australians** to take better care of their oral health and lead happier, healthier lives.

Today and every day, we break down the barriers to oral health created by social and economic disadvantage, actively servicing more than **2100 sites** in regional, remote, and metropolitan areas across the nation.



Members of our clinical and support teams at head office in Adelaide: at back, Sai, Vince, Karthik, Sarah, Tyler, Arman. Front, Taliah, Abbey and Madison



## A Message From Our Chairperson

Australian Dental Foundation is experiencing extraordinary growth, with the demand for our dental and oral health education services increasing substantially over the past year and a half.

As Australians face cost-of-living pressures not seen in a generation, our work as Australia's leading dental charity is more important than ever, reaching out to the most vulnerable members of our communities.

This past year we have expanded and grown our services and reach. We are on target to see 100,000 patients across three states – SA, Victoria and NSW – by the end of this calendar year 2023.

These people who receive our dental services and oral health education are across a broad spectrum of society – pre-schoolers and students, refugees and migrants, aged care residents, remand centre prisoners, children with disability, and those living with homelessness.



Like many health providers, ADF weathered difficult times through COVID when our access to patients was extremely limited. We have emerged stronger.

And while our Foundation has had a significant impact so far, our work isn't done yet. There is still a considerable need to address inequalities in access to oral health care across Australia and we won't stop until oral disease harm is dramatically minimised. Every day we are working towards realising our vision for a decay-free future.

Access to healthcare is one of the most basic and valuable human rights – not just for treating disease, but in helping to prevent it. Despite this many in our community still do not have access to basic local dental services, fluoridated water, or something as simple as a toothbrush and toothpaste.

Nearly one in two Australian school children experience tooth decay, with two in three adults aged 65+ experiencing gum disease. Our research also indicates two in five school children from low-income families fail to brush twice a day.

Most dental disease is entirely preventable, yet the scope of the task at hand should not be underestimated. Tooth decay is Australia's most prevalent health problem, with loss of all natural teeth (edentulism) Australia's third-most prevalent health problem, and gum disease (periodontal disease) rounding off the top five.

Dental problems wreak havoc within the body, causing infection, malignancy, and other serious health conditions. Further, dental disease has profound implications for cardiovascular diseases, preterm and low birthweight babies, diabetes, respiratory diseases, osteoporosis, immunosuppressive diseases, and arthritis.

Thanks to our Foundation's targeted service delivery, advocacy and proactive community awareness programs on the benefits of good oral health, (and how to attain it) oral health literacy (and outcomes) are improving within those communities where we are actively involved. Our suite of programs provides affordable access and understanding to at-risk community members, by helping to eradicate and reduce the impact of dental disease, through timely oral health care and education.

Clear demonstration of our impact is evident by our formalised Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the South Australian Department of Child Protection (DCP) which enables access to emergency, transition, and orthodontic services to DCP's client base totaling 4500 South Australians. Such esteemed trust is not lightly imparted (or received) and our Foundation remains honoured to be entrusted with the care of these young people to ensure that they have access to dental care and an oral health journey comparable to their peers.

Evidence of our successful delivery of oral health literacy and education programs has seen the reduction of incidence of decay, periodontal disease and in the elderly, aspiration pneumonia. Patients, carers, health care and residential care workers have gained an increased understanding of the causes and solutions of dental disease.

Thousands of Australians can now eat with confidence, smile without embarrassment and have access to emergency dental support to avoid extreme pain associated with dental infection.

Our Foundation works tirelessly, efficiently and cost-effectively. Money is raised and reinvested ethically and transparently to achieve a decay-free future. We are proud to have accessed funding in support of our programs through organisations including BankSA Foundation, Coopers Brewery Foundation, Honda Foundation, Greater Western Water, Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) and Country SA Primary Health Network (CSAPHN) among others.

We actively seek corporate donations and collaborative partnerships, to extend our programs to support more Australians in need and we thank

those who are already supporting us for their time, donations and support.

ADF exists to support and help people achieve better oral health, but we could not have done this without your support. We are proud to have a network of fantastic sponsors and partners who enable us to achieve our mission of addressing inequalities in oral health. The connections created with our supporters are precious and help us to champion oral health in the public domain, to the industry and government, in regional, remote and access constrained communities. We truly value the generosity and hard work of our supporters during this period. Each one of you has helped shape who we are and you are the reason why we have been able to help so many people achieve a healthier smile.

We welcome everyone to join and support our work as a charity with people at its heart; be it to undertake voluntary dental treatment, education seminars, delivery, and logistics support, helping health professionals deliver community events or campaigning for essential political changes.

Our vision is underpinned by our amazing network of volunteer dentists who help us to deliver dental outreach services at more than 2000 sites across Australia and beyond. Such services include treatment for children, the elderly, the disadvantaged and those medically compromised, in a caring and empathetic manner within their local community.

On behalf of our Board and our patients, I want to personally thank all those volunteers, sites and key stakeholders, together with the ADF's extensive team of dental clinicians and support staff for their efforts to date. I look forward to continuing, and indeed expanding, our support to improve oral health in our community.

I hope this Activity Report inspires you to take your own tangible steps towards eliminating decay, one tooth at a time.

Yours sincerely,

*Dr Greg Miller*

**Dr Greg Miller**  
Chairperson and Clinical Ambassador

BDS. (Adel), Grad. Dip. Clin. Dent. (Oral Implants) (Syd), GDDSM (Adel),  
Dip. Imp. Dent. RCSEd, FRACDS, GAICD, FICD, FPFA



# Our Programs

## My School Dentist Program

Oral health is fundamental to a child's general health and well-being.

Two in five Australian children experience tooth decay in their baby teeth, with one in four experiencing decay in their permanent teeth. Decay is often responsible for causing significant pain, discomfort and embarrassment. Yet, many aspects of oral disease – including dental caries which lead to decay – are preventable and can be treated in their early stages via routine dental examinations, treatment and oral health education.

Our My School Dentist Program is one of Australia's largest mobile dental programs which supports convenient access to no-out-of-pocket expense oral health care and education for students onsite at kindergartens, primary and secondary schools.

The My School Dentist Program sets out to improve oral health outcomes and reduce the burden of poor oral health for children and adolescents, with a particular focus on lower socio-economic, regional and remote communities.



## Aged Care Program

As people get older, their need for oral health care increases. Older people more commonly experience certain oral health diseases and related problems as they become less able to self-manage and self-report. In the latter part of life, the elderly face issues of cognitive impairment, physical frailty, functional dependence, and comorbidities.

Regular oral hygiene, early treatment and maintenance is integral in maintaining functional teeth, healthy gums and mouths. Importantly, it also addresses risk factors and helps reduce the likelihood of experiencing physical pain or discomfort from active oral disease (or ill-fitting dentures).

ADF's Aged Care Program supports the management and prevention of oral health conditions for seniors in aged care facilities and residential living complexes – where oral disease is often prevalent from limited access to a traditional dentist. We are proud to provide a comprehensive suite of dental solutions for residents, including onsite support services delivered by our fully functional mobile dental teams. This program is the largest onsite mobile dental service for aged care in Australia and provides support to many of Australia's largest aged care providers.

We are proud to have received national awards recognising our efforts in this space, including the 'Wrigley Jr Company Foundation ADAF Principles in Action Award' and are one of only a few service providers tackling this complex problem.



# Oral health is an important part of living well.

## Children's Oral Health Situation in Australia

- È In South Australia alone, an estimated 14,500 school days are lost per year due to dental problems.
- È Children with poor oral health are 3x more likely to miss school.
- È Children living in remote areas are 6x more likely to experience dental disease.
- È 95% of remote preschool Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children do not brush their teeth regularly.



# 1 in 10

children aged between 5–14 years have never visited a dentist.

## Seniors' Oral Health Situation in Australia

- È 2 in 3 adults aged 65+ years have gum disease.
- È Tooth loss is 2x more prevalent among adults aged 75+ years (26%), compared with adults aged 65–74 years (13%).
- È Seniors living in remote areas had 30% higher average number of missing teeth than those in major cities.
- È 53.4% of people aged 65+ experienced periodontal disease, compared with 2.7% of people aged 15–24 years.



# 1 in 4

Australians aged 65+ years avoid eating certain foods due to issues with their teeth.



## Our Outreach



### Working Overseas

The Australian Dental Foundation has been pleased to support a number of overseas programs by sending supplies and supporting our clinicians to do good work.

Our lovely dentist in the South-East of SA – Dr Saanchi Ramprakash – travelled to Ladakh in north-east India to provide dental check-ups and treatment to monks and nuns - ranging in age from 5 to 80 – at the Karma Dupyud Choeling Monastery. Many of us in ADF provided financial support through her GoFundMe page and ADF also sent some supplies with her.



We worked with Armadillo & Co Foundation, which works specifically in disadvantaged communities in India, and put together 250 oral health packs for children.

“Our trip was highly successful, and it was so well received by all the students at our KVM school. It sparked a full pro bono dental program from a local dentist as part of the continued health care we provide to the school children. I really appreciate the time it took to prepare and put all 250 packs together for the children.” – Jodie Fried, co-founder Armadillo & Co.

We also partnered with the Children’s Health Aid team which visited Vietnam to provide materials for them to provide dentistry to children.



## Our Programs



### Smile Friendly

#### Smile Friendly Partnership

Smile Friendly is our new Partnership Program which recognises the commitment of aged care facilities, schools and early learning centres to improving oral health in our community. It encourages us all to do more by involving our people in spreading the word and expanding services to reach those who need it most.

Together we want to educate and inform Australians about the importance of oral health and regular dental care. We can do this by educating students, staff and residents.

Our Smile Friendly Partners will display their commitment to better oral health through committing to a Charter and giving their residents, staff and students access to information about dental services available at their site through Australian Dental Foundation.

By becoming a Smile Friendly site, our Partners will have access to extra support and resources from Australian Dental Foundation.

These will include appropriate online and in-person learning modules and staff presentations, developed with our own expert clinicians.

Smile Friendly was launched in mid-2023 and aims to help us reach even more people with our decay-free future message and to address the inequalities in access to oral health care which are still present in our communities.



Oral Health Therapist, Chloe at Goodstart Paralowie.



Dr Ramya with Angela at Estia Healthcare Flagstaff Hill.

**By becoming a Smile Friendly site, our Partners will have access to extra support and resources from Australian Dental Foundation.**



## Our Outreach



Members of our Victorian clinician team.

### Expanding Our Reach

Australian Dental Foundation continues to grow in the eastern states.

In Victoria, in the past year, we have grown our service footprint through the addition of 18 new schools and 228 aged care facilities, where patients are receiving our services from a dedicated team of clinicians.

We expect to see many more schools take advantage of our Programs in coming years.

We have strong partnerships with some of Victoria's largest aged care providers, including Uniting Agewell, Allity, Benetas and Blue Cross Group.

ADF was launched in NSW earlier this year. We believe that our passion, our message and our not-for-profit status will help us to bring oral health care to even more people who are often left behind.



Members of our New South Wales clinician team.



Members of our South Australian team.

## Our New Toothbrushes and Toothpastes

### Brush up with us!

Australian Dental Foundation is proud to announce its first retail venture. We have produced our own toothbrushes and toothpaste – clinically approved by dental professionals.

The new range includes toothbrushes for children aged 2-6, children 6+ and adult. The toothpaste also comes in a variety of flavours and concentrations for different ages.

This is a tangible and simple way for you to support the important work of Australian Dental Foundation.

Next time you are shopping, look for our branded products.

By buying the ADF products you will be supporting us to provide dental services to:

- È People living with homelessness.
- È Vulnerable people living in aged care.
- È Children from indigenous or culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- È Migrants and refugees.
- È Children living with a disability.



Lacey with our new toothbrush and toothpaste.

“Some might say we are brave to go up against the big brand producers but we think Australians will enjoy supporting a locally based venture, while being reassured that the profits are going to a truly worthy cause.”

Dr Greg Miller, Chairperson and Clinical Ambassador, ADF





# Our Feedback



*"What a pleasant surprise and huge relief to Riverland Special School families when the Mobile Dental team came to check on the students' teeth. This unique and incredible opportunity saved parents from needing to take time off of work and, in some cases, it saved a trip to Adelaide with its own associated costs, stressors and time constraints. The travel time one way far exceeded the length of the appointment itself. The friendly staff, and then new dental van, gave the students a real sense of value, pride and confidence in themselves. Dental care became exciting and important, and an annual commitment of the school."*

**Cherie Walkington**  
School Services Officer,  
Riverland Special School



*"Cancer Council SA began collaborating with the Australian Dental Foundation in 2018. Stemming from a shared interest in promoting healthy dietary choices and good oral hygiene, their first project was the development of a co-branded educational resource for young school-aged children, which continues to have a positive impact today."*

**Karissa Deutrom**  
Senior Program Development Officer,  
Cancer Council SA



*"The South Australian Secondary Principals' Association (SASPA) has had a relationship with the Australian Dental Foundation for over 4 years. During this time the 82 schools we represent have consistently provided glowing reports about the effectiveness, efficiency and equity evident of the foundation's work. We wish the Australian Dental Foundation every success for the future."*

**Peter Mader**  
Former President, South Australian  
Secondary Principals' Association



*"While Cambrai is not as isolated as some schools, we are in one of the lowest socio-economic categories (Cat 2) and our community is highly disadvantaged... If it was not for the attendance of the Australian Dental Foundation, I am in no doubt that many of our students would still never have been to a dentist despite needing dental work. Our students' dental health has improved dramatically with most now cleaning their teeth and showing no fear of the dentist."*

**Michele Holloway**  
Principal,  
Cambrai Primary School and Preschool



*"Uniting AgeWell contracted all of our Victorian sites to the Australian Dental Foundation in 2020. ADF has become an essential partner in the oral and dental care of our residents and continues to positively impact upon our services through the provision of a scheduled dental program. Our staff receive on site oral and dental training from the ADF team which has significantly strengthened Uniting AgeWell's service provision and the quality of care we are able to provide to our customers."*

**Ian Blair**  
Director of Operations – Victoria,  
Uniting AgeWell



*"It has been a great privilege to work in partnership with the Australian Dental Foundation in order to make dental services more accessible to Children with a Disability. From our experience, many of these children and their families have difficulty accessing mainstream services, so offering onsite clinics at Novita locations since 2018 has been a wonderful initiative that continues to make a difference."*

**Jeremy Brown**  
Chief Operating Officer, Novita



*"The Governors of the Coopers Foundation chose the Australian Dental Foundation as the inaugural recipient of our Sustainable Giving initiative. With multi-year funding from our organisation and significant pro bono support from dental professionals, they were able to go into aged care facilities and nursing homes in socially disadvantaged communities across South Australia and deliver much-needed dental care. The impact the ADF has had on the quality of life for these residents, whose poor oral health has been linked with increased mortality and morbidity, is immeasurable. We are proud to have supported the incredible work they do for the most vulnerable in our community."*

**Melanie Cooper**  
Governor, Coopers Brewery Foundation



*"Autism SA has worked with the Australian Dental Foundation to develop an understanding of autism and practices that can support autistic individuals to attend dental appointments comfortably and successfully. The ADF has a strong record in delivering oral health programs to South Australians experiencing disadvantage for whom it would be otherwise out of reach."*

**Niki Welz**  
Research, Projects and Resources Creative,  
Autism SA



*"We have benefited from a strong collaboration with the Australian Dental Foundation who work in some of our partner schools and provide dental support to many of our Learning for Life students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. The support they can provide strengthens the partnership we have with our families which we know improves educational outcomes for these disadvantaged students."*

**Graham Jaeschke**  
General Manager SA and NT,  
The Smith Family



*"We are very pleased to support the wonderful dental outreach work that you provide to so many members of the community."*

**Olivia Thomas**  
Manager, BankSA Foundation



*"Foodbank SA has been proud to partner with the Australian Dental Foundation over the years, as their service provision is highly complementary to Foodbank's school programs."*

**Greg Pattinson**  
Chief Executive Officer, Foodbank SA

**"I find it extremely rewarding to be able to give back to the community by donating my time to provide treatment with ADF around Australia".**

**Dr Sachin**  
Volunteer Clinician



We were pleased to show the Minister for Health and Wellbeing Chris Picton our work in action at South Port Primary School. He is pictured with our clinicians Lina and Olivia, and students Kahika and Gracie.



# Our Fleet

## Expanding Our Reach

Space is at a premium for many schools and that is why our new dental trailer has proved popular and allowed us to offer our program to even more schools. The trailer can be parked in the school car park and operate independently to provide less disruption for schools.

This is providing options for schools about how we visit them – either using a spare room or classroom; or the trailer.

Our trailer also has access for wheelchairs, allowing us to see a greater diversity of patients.

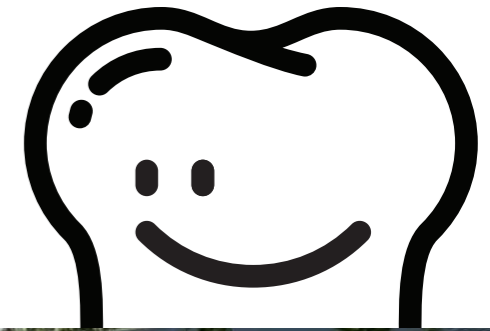
This has been a big investment for ADF but there are even bigger investments afoot!

In early 2023, ADF purchased two more mobile vehicles – a 15m trailer with two treatment rooms and a single surgery mobile clinic with integrated CSSD (sterilisation equipment).



DA Olivia with our trailer at Blakeview Primary School.

ADF has worked quietly behind the scenes, building a strong ethic and reputation for seven years with our many schools, early learning centres and aged care facilities. Now it is time to tell our story and reach out to even more people with dental services and oral health education.



Dr Amar and DA Olivia with our trailer at Blakeview Primary School.

Once fitted out, these acquisitions will allow us to reach even more people in more remote and regional areas where dental services are hard to find or financially out-of-reach for residents.

We are still exploring the best ways to use these new facilities so stay posted on our website for updates.

Although our commercial van is too small for a treatment space, it is providing a great transport option for small freight (including our new toothbrushes and toothpaste) and is an important community engagement tool. So we've been out and about regularly in our van, spreading the word and visiting many schools and other facilities.



The new two-room mobile surgery is on its way.



Abbey and Shauna out and about in our van.



## Our Partners

We are proud to partner with a growing number of associations and industry peak bodies:

- to work with them to find those who need our services;
- to spread the word about good oral health and its importance to wellbeing.

These include:

- SA Primary Principals' Association
- SA Catholic Primary Principals' Association
- SA Secondary Principals' Association
- SA Small Schools Association
- SA Cancer Council.



We partner with SA Cancer Council to spread the word about a healthy diet and good oral health care. We developed this poster with them to let people know how much sugar is in their beverages.



Abbey with Todd from Christie Downs Primary School. We enjoy catching up with familiar faces and meeting new people at our partners' conferences.

We also have important partnerships with Baptist Care, Novita, Adelaide Zoo, Adelaide Remand Centre, Lutheran Care, SA Community Achievement Awards and hundreds of schools, early learning centres and aged care facilities.

We value all of our partnerships and you can read more about some of them in this document.

Thank you to our many partners and supporters who help us to do the important work of reaching those who have difficulty accessing dental care for whatever reason.

## Our Sponsors



### BankSA Foundation

The BankSA Foundation provided funding to significantly enhance our service scope and treatment footprint for underprivileged communities across metropolitan and regional South Australia and beyond.

### Coopers Brewery Foundation

The Coopers Brewery Foundation has graciously donated funds through the Coopers Brewery Sustainable Giving Program. Their contribution extends for three years and has enabled the purchase of additional dental outreach equipment to then deliver support for more than 1,000 additional patients in aged care facilities and nursing homes, across country South Australia.

### The Honda Foundation

The Honda Foundation provided us with support to purchase a portable dental unit which enabled us to continue and indeed increase our service footprint. This will in turn facilitate improved oral healthcare for those Australians in greatest need, with a particular focus on school aged children and the elderly.

### Greater Western Water

Greater Western Water in Melbourne provided us with a grant to invest in mobile dental equipment to expand our services to school and aged care facilities in the area they service – the greater western area of Melbourne. The project will equip two more dental teams for Australian Dental Foundation with new digital diagnostic equipment to better diagnose and treat oral/dental disease. The Healthy Smiles for Greater Western Melbourne project will enable our Port Melbourne-based team to expand its mobile dental operations.

### Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce

The Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce has provided financial support for our project to provide dental care and oral health education for refugee and migrant women aged 16 to 22 at River Nile School and at Gladstone Park School in Melbourne. The funding supports equipment, staff and logistics costs for this important work.

### Stronger Communities Program

The Stronger Communities Program is a Federal initiative that provides each Federal Member of Parliament with \$150,000 to grant to projects and organisations in their electorate. Thank you to the Member for Macnamara, Josh Burns, where our Melbourne office is based, who included us in his list of supported projects. The equipment purchased with this grant will support our mobile teams in Melbourne to reach out to more sites.

### Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

The Victorian Government supported our Smiles for Regional Aged Care Residents project through its Social Enterprise Support Grants program so that we could buy mobile equipment to reach 1400-plus people in 68 aged care facilities in socially disadvantaged communities across Victoria.

**ACTIVITY BOOK**

# How much sugar are you drinking?

Slushy 1100mL = 25 tsps	Cola 600mL = 16 tsps	Sports drink 600mL = 9 tsps	Choc milk 375mL = 8.5 tsps
Energy drink 250mL = 7 tsps	100% fruit juice 250mL = 6 tsps	Cordial 200mL = 5 tsps	Water 500mL = 0 tsps

**TIP: Aim for less than 6 teaspoons of added sugar per day.**  
Added sugars are also found in many processed foods like lollies, chocolate, biscuits and some breakfast cereals.

**1 TEASPOON/CUBE EQUALS 4 GRAMS OF SUGAR**

[cancersa.org.au](http://cancersa.org.au)

Australian Dental Foundation | Cancer Council SA



## Our Programs

### Dental Emergency Situation in Australia

- È 2 hours and 46 minutes was the average time spent in the emergency room for dental related problems.
- È 56% of all dental admissions resulted in a discharge from the ED with opioid or antibiotic prescriptions, which did not eliminate the need for patients to be seen by a dentist.
- È 11 people died in Australia in 2011 due to dental infection.



68%

of dental patients presented at the Emergency Department (ED) out of usual business hours.

### Emergency Triage and Tele-Dentistry

A dental emergency can happen at any time. ADF's Emergency Triage hotline has enabled Australians to access phone support outside of the regular hours that local dental clinics typically operate. Such support provides vital advice to patients on both short and medium term solutions to ensure patient dental concerns can be resolved.

Whether a patient is suffering from a toothache, trauma, or any other dental concern, Tele-Dentistry is a convenient, accessible, and efficient option for patients to talk to a dental clinician, where face-to-face consultations may not be possible due to various access constraints – saving travel, time, money, and worry.

Tele-Dentistry is similar to a conventional, real-time dental consultation; with the patient connecting to a dentist remotely via a secure video chat platform. Such services are not intended to replace an essential dentist visit, but rather a convenient solution when they cannot see a dentist in person.

Our Foundation's clinical team can support assessments of the oral health situation where appropriate information is provided and make recommendations for remediation or care. In a circumstance in which patients require care, our team of dentists can provide immediate and professional dental advice, sympathetic of their current condition. Next steps may include referrals to a nearest hospital, dentist, or general practitioner where appropriate.



Dr Diana at Christies Beach Primary School.

## Our Programs



### Increased Dental Services for Vulnerable Children

In a state-first, young South Australians who have left care will be given access to increased, free dental services under a partnership between ADF and the Department of Child Protection (SA). The partnership provides:

- È Access to free dental services for eligible young people who have left care up to the age of 25.
- È Emergency after hours dental care for children and young people in care, including in the regions through participating ADF fixed clinics throughout metropolitan Adelaide and regional South Australia.
- È Fee capped orthodontic treatment for eligible children and young people in care who do not meet the criteria for treatment through the SA Dental Service.



“Oral health is integral to full body health and to a person's sense of wellbeing and confidence - and it starts from birth. Children and young people in care absolutely deserve to access the dental care and treatment they need to help ensure their teeth are strong and healthy for life.



I am so proud that the Department for Child Protection is continuing its partnership with the Australian Dental Foundation to ensure children and young people in care have access to the dental care they need to be healthy and to feel as confident as possible. Thank you very much to all involved for choosing to make a lasting difference in the lives of young people.”

Katrine Hildyard, Minister for Child Protection.



# Our Outreach



## Baptist Care visit

Australian Dental Foundation has partnered with Baptist Care SA to enable members of the community who live with homelessness to access oral health care services through the establishment of a regular mobile pop-up dental clinic at the Westcare Centre.

Our dentists volunteer their time to provide vulnerable people to improve their smiles, health and confidence and to access services that would otherwise be out of their reach.

Over the past 12 months, five clinics comprising 10 days of appointments have been provided by the Australian Dental Foundation addressing the needs of 59 clients. In the longer term it is anticipated that the number of clinics will increase to at least eight clinics a year to be delivered by the Australian Dental Foundation.

Services provided have ranged from standard oral care treating caries and other routine oral health requirements through to the identification of oral cancers with referrals to the SA Dental Hospital.

**“The work you do for vulnerable people is kind and generous, the way you do it is more important.”**

Deb Bucksin, Senior Advisor Aboriginal Services, Baptist Care SA.



**“The state of my teeth was really impacting my confidence. Now I feel so much better.”**

Westcare Centre patient.

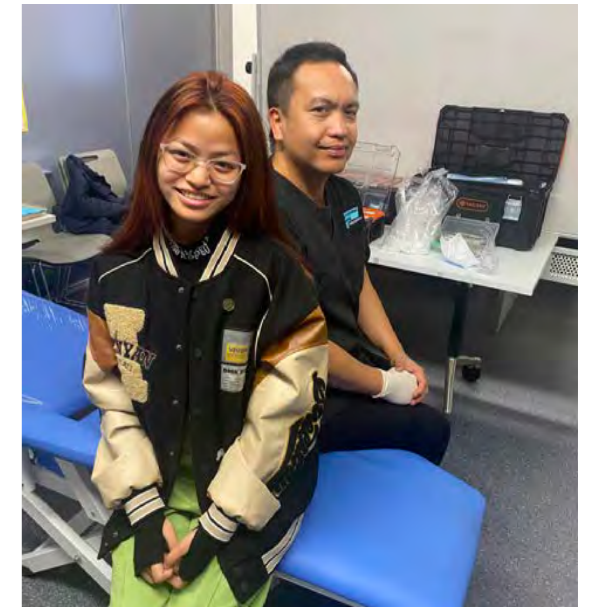


Dr Jeremy and dental assistant Teegan with patient Gemma.

# Our Outreach



ADF's Pip, left, and Jaldi, right, at a mini health expo at River Nile School, with students.



Genesis with ADF clinician Tristan.

## River Nile School in Melbourne

When our Melbourne office received an email from the River Nile School about dental help for their students, Australian Dental Foundation swung into action.

River Nile School is a specialty facility that provides education to refugee and migrant women aged 16 to 22, and sometimes beyond.

The school's Registered Nurse Jacinta told us that 80 percent of the students had either never seen a dentist or had not seen one for a decade or more. Some were presenting to emergency departments to have teeth removed that could have been saved with timely treatment. Many were living with pain and embarrassment from the state of their dental health.

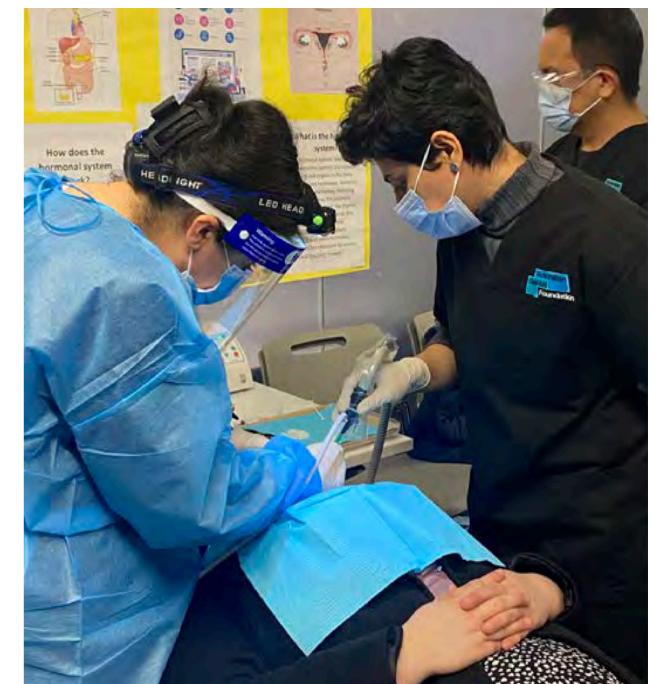


River Nile students lang, Genesis and Ndrah.

**“I had not been to the dentist for 10 years since I had a tooth pulled out in my home country of Myanmar. I am very grateful for this opportunity.”**

River Nile School patient.

In partnership with the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce (National Council of Churches in Australia) we were able to provide dental care to dozens of students.



Dr Deepti, Mona and Tristan at River Nile School.





### Novita visit

Our partnership with Novita began in 2018 when we visited the St Mary's and Elizabeth centres for the first time. Today our dental visits continue and we are in discussion to roll these services out to a further two metropolitan centres.

This partnership provides a valuable opportunity for children with high special needs to have dentistry and oral health treatment. Our clinicians enjoy this outreach work in the community.



Abbey from ADF with a patient and his carer at Novita St Mary's.

Dr Sachin with a patient in our dental trailer at Novita St Mary's.



## Our Fixed Clinics



We operate more than a dozen fully functional onsite dental teams utilising quality mobile dental equipment and specifically formulated oral health strategies, to service more than 2,145 sites across Southern and Eastern Australia.

We are committed to supporting all people in Australia to achieve the best possible oral health.

ADF has commenced a roll out of conveniently based dental clinics, with initial sites already established throughout South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. Our fixed clinics support increased access to quality and affordable dental care for patients of all ages, for patients who may require additional dental treatment that cannot be provided in a mobile dental setting.



### Remand Centre

Australian Dental Foundation provides dental services to the Adelaide Remand Centre and has done so since signing the contract for this work with Serco in 2020. Our dentists visit the Remand Centre one day in every week of the year, including over Christmas and New Year to provide important dental work for remand prisoners. We have completed 1148 appointments since inception.



Elizabeth Dental team members.





# Our Community



## ADF's Community Welfare Innovation Award

We are proud to be partnering with Awards Australia to present the Australian Dental Foundation Community Welfare Innovation Award at the SA Community Achievement Awards. The award recognises and celebrates the contribution that an individual or organisation has made through implementing an innovative welfare program or initiative that has made a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of dependant community members who rely on others for their care.



2022 Community Welfare Innovation Award winner, Kaleb Wilden.



“Since establishing the Australian Dental Foundation Community Welfare Innovation Award in 2020, we’ve received over 80 nominations and been able to celebrate so many incredible community initiatives, sharing their fantastic stories and providing positive role models for others in the community”

Awards Australia’s Partnerships Manager, Josh Griffin.



ADF Chairperson and Clinical Ambassador, Dr Greg Miller, pictured with the 2021 Community Welfare Innovation Award winner, With Love Formalwear.



ADF Director of National Operations, Brett Miller, pictured with the 2020 Community Welfare Innovation Award winner, Autism SA.

# Our Community



## Adelaide Zoo's Teddy Bears' Picnic

ADF over many years conducted an information stall at the Adelaide Zoo's "Teddy Bear's Picnic". This event has provided our team the opportunity to engage with younger children to encourage positive oral health habits and raise awareness of the ADF with their parents. On each occasion, oral health packs including toothbrushes and toothpaste, oral health information sheets and other oral health promotional items were distributed to attendees.



ADF Chairperson and Clinical Ambassador, Dr Greg Miller, and the Sumatran Orangutan, Kluet.



## Supporting Animals' Oral Health with Zoos SA

ADF Chairperson and Clinical Ambassador, Dr Greg Miller has donated his time to help fix some problem chompers for Adelaide Zoo's beloved Sumatran Orangutan, Kluet.

Like 25 per cent of the Australian population, Kluet was found to be suffering from periodontitis — a gum disease we commonly see in humans. In working with the Adelaide Zoo's veterinary team, Dr Miller undertook a thorough examination, gum check, scale and clean and four extractions.

**Kluet was no different to providing dental care to a human, he was just a whole lot hairier!**

Dr Greg Miller.



## Awards and Accreditation



### Quality Innovation Practice

ADF is committed to the provision of quality care, patient safety and continuous improvement. ADF has been independently recognised for high standards with a Quality Innovation Performance (QIP) accreditation, Australia's premier healthcare organisation for dental accreditation.

Achieving QIP accreditation means ADF consistently meet National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards that govern the dental industry, providing assurance for quality and performance for all patient care in our mobile and fixed dental clinics.

### Wrigley Company Foundation ADAF Principles In Action Award

In both 2013, 2016 and 2019, our programs headed by Dr Greg Miller were the proud sole inaugural recipient of national awarded 'Wrigley Company Foundation ADAF Principles in Action Award'. The award recognises our work in remote and rural nursing homes across Australia and acknowledges the ongoing need to improve Australia's oral health outcomes for mobility-constrained seniors, providing funding to further assist and support access to oral care in aged care facilities and residential living complexes.



### Development Educator

As of 2017, ADF was formally acknowledged as a Developmental Educator, supporting and promoting oral health care for people with developmental and/or acquired disabilities, as well as their families and carers.

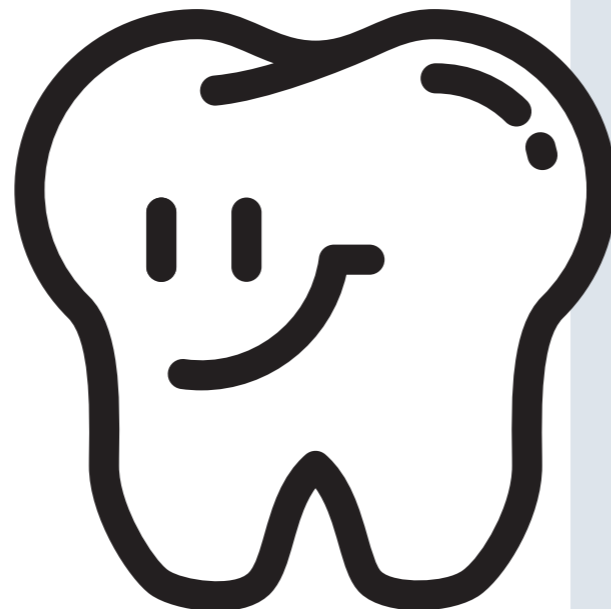
ADF collaborate with a diverse range of organisations, including Novita and Autism SA, to ensure people living with disability can access oral health care in a specialised local environment, to ultimately lead happier, healthier lives without oral disease.



Unlocking business for good

### Social Trader and Social Enterprise Certified

ADF intentionally tackles social barriers to oral care, improving Australia's oral health outcomes and well-being as well as providing employment and training opportunities for Australians. As of 2020, ADF has been recognised as a certified social enterprise.



## Advocacy

We have submitted numerous papers, submissions and policy response documents to all levels of government and have remained an influential, leading voice in championing improved oral health care outcomes across the nation. Such submissions help bring awareness and address the gaps in oral health within Australia.

**Advocating for improved oral health services and outcomes for Australians.**

## Board Members



**Dr Greg Miller**  
Chairperson and  
Clinical Ambassador



**Neil Oakes**  
Treasurer



**Brenton Grant**  
Secretary



**Brett Miller**  
Director of  
National Operations



**Chris Henry**  
Board Member



**Rhonda Miller**  
Board Member



**Vince Minervini**  
Board Member



## A Message From Our Treasurer



From a financial perspective, the Board has also:

- È Invested in equipment required to provide the dental services by our volunteers, staff and contractors. Of particular note in this regard is the acquisition of a mobile dental trailer and tow vehicle to expand our activities at various schools across South Australia.
- È Paid administration and governance costs of the Foundation.
- È Funded the operation of fixed clinics.
- È Approved funding to expand the programs undertaken by the Foundation, particularly interstate in Victoria and NSW.

The expenditure incurred by ADF to achieve its objectives continues to increase year on year with expenditure for year ending 30th June 2023 resulting in an all-time high.

Importantly, the increase in expenditure is due to an increase of services and education being provided rather than merely an increase in costs to provide the same level of services.

No salaries or wages were paid by ADF to any Board Members.

**Overall, ADF is solvent and in a strong financial position with a net asset position as at 30th June 2023 of \$1.725 million comprising cash in excess of \$471,000.**

As part of commencing the operation of fixed clinics to supplement our core mobile dental business, the Board decided that it was important to be certified as a Social Trader which was achieved in the 2020 Financial Year. Importantly this certification shows that ADF:

- È Has a defined primary social, cultural or environmental purpose consistent with a public or community benefit.
- È Derives a substantial portion of its income from operating the fixed clinics.
- È Invests its efforts and resources into its purpose such that the public/community benefit outweighs private benefit.

Overall, and more importantly, anyone looking to deal with the Foundation (from suppliers to donors) can have confidence that although the Foundation has commenced trading operations via the fixed clinics, the model adopted really does achieve the purpose of the Foundation being to improve Australia's oral health outcomes and well-being.

Yours sincerely,

**Neil Oakes**  
Treasurer

## Decay-Free Future

There is still a significant need to address the remaining inequalities in oral health care across Australia. Oral disease can lead to lasting physical and psychological disability, and we are committed to closing this service gap through specifically formulated timely intervention, primary prevention, and maintenance strategies.

In support of a Decay-Free Future, we are proud to launch our most ambitious project to date in the distribution of 1 million toothpastes and toothbrushes by 2025.

We pledge to continue to expand our services, programs and projects to support improved oral health outcomes into the future as we look towards our Decay-Free Future vision to further address inequalities in oral health and reduce the barriers to enable dental care for all.

## Thank You

Together, we are helping improve Australia's oral health outcomes and well-being for a future without oral disease. Your support and generosity enables us to break down the ever-increasing barriers to oral health care for our target communities whom indeed suffer the greatest burden and would otherwise be forgotten, especially for regional and remote communities.

Together, we are making a lifelong impact, one tooth at a time.

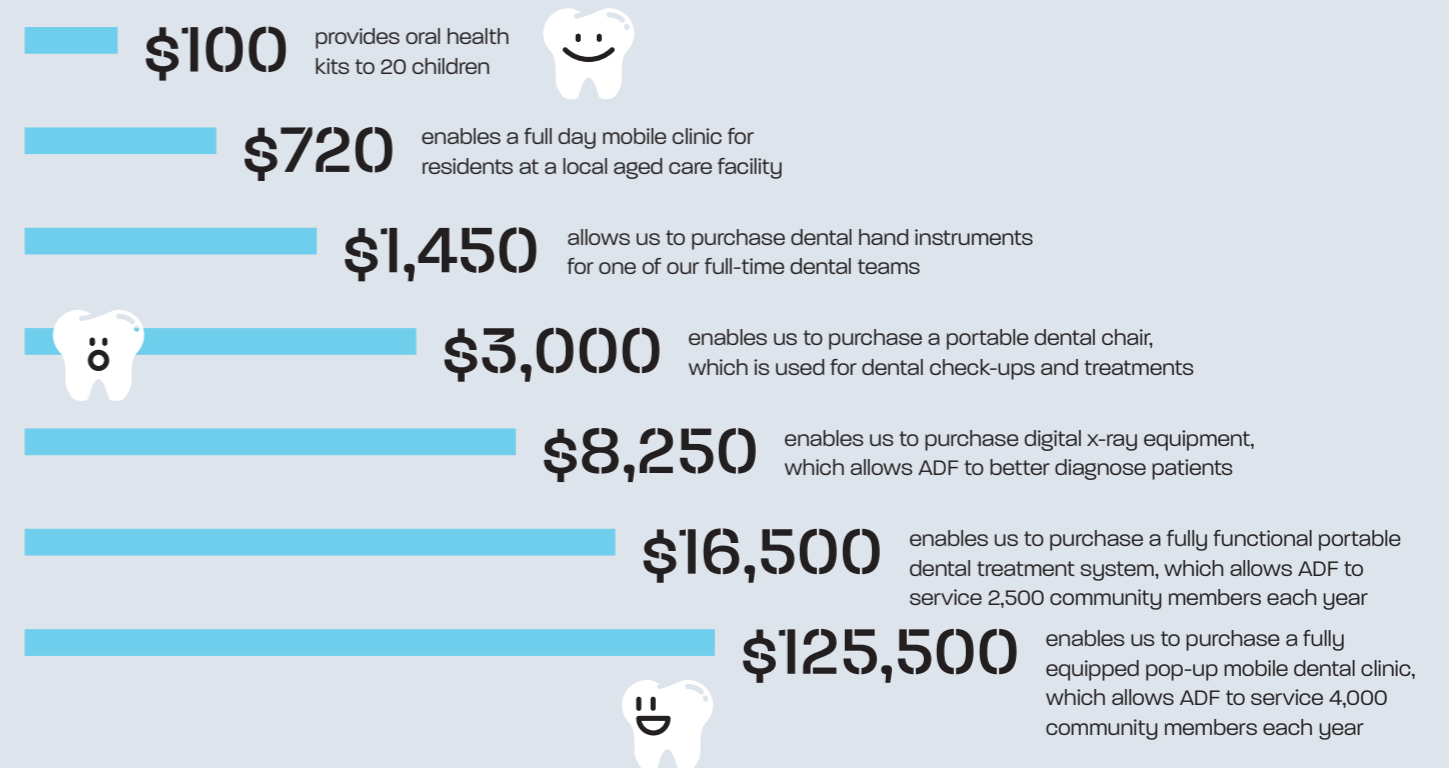


Your support will make a tangible difference.

Scan me to learn more about how you can help!

## Help Make A Difference

Every dollar donated helps us treat, train, equip or educate Australians, so we can move to a decay-free future.





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