



# Volunteer dental programs

## Quarterly impact report

1 October to 31 December 2023



## Chairman's Introduction



I am pleased to introduce this Quarterly Impact Report for October to December 2023. This quarter has seen mixed results. Overall, more than \$200K of pro bono dental care was provided by our fantastically generous volunteers. The Western Australian volunteers have once again performed brilliantly and this quarter have provided the most impact. It is very pleasing that Victoria and Queensland have also performed strongly. The usually highly productive New South Wales has pretty well shut down for now as the ADA New South Wales Branch and its charity Filling the Gap (ADA DHF's partner in NSW) restructure their processes around managing volunteering. I expect NSW will resume strongly soon.

This quarterly result consolidates the 2023 calendar year results so that for 3 years in a row since the COVID-19 shutdown of 2020, our volunteers have provided in excess of \$1.1M of pro bono dental care each year. While this is a great achievement and reflects great credit on the generosity and values of our volunteers, there remains a growing pool of unmet need for our care. It is pleasing that we continue to attract new volunteers although we are not always able to refer them patients due to proximity of patient load issues. The other limitation is of course the Foundation's budget which determines how many days we can employ our State Coordinators. The number of patients we can place is a function of the number of days we can employ the coordinators. It follows that to grow our impact we need more donations each year. We can be proud that our volunteers provide about \$4 of impact for every dollar donated to the Foundation. I doubt there are many charities who can claim that return. So please continue your donations if you already give to ADA DHF or consider doing so if you have not contributed before.

I can also report that the Trustee has approved a new 3-year Strategic Plan for the Foundation for 2024 to 2026. While not anticipating dramatic changes in direction and activity from recent years, it does shift focus to the new name and logo of the Foundation and the increased engagement the ADA, its members and Branches expected to follow from the rebrand. The new Strategic Plan 2024-26 can soon be viewed on the website [adadhf.org](http://adadhf.org). A link to this website is included later in the report. To conclude, I once again commend our generous volunteers, our donors and sponsors and dedicated staff who collectively create our impact.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Rick Olive AM RFD

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rick Olive', written in a cursive style.

Chairperson,  
ADA Dental Health Foundation

## Creating impact with the ADA Dental Health Foundation

Our vision is to enable disadvantaged Australians to have equitable access to quality oral health and care. Through the work that we do, we deliver better access to quality oral health care for all Australians regardless of their financial, geographical or social situation.

From men and women who have overcome addiction, who are enduring long-term economic hardship or suffering from mental and physical health challenges to those establishing their independence after domestic violence has stolen their freedom, and the homeless whose needless dental suffering no longer compounds their more basic struggles, we are there to provide life changing oral health treatment wherever we can help.

Through our Dental Rescue Days®, Adopt a Patient and Rebuilding Smiles® programs, our national team connects eligible individuals with specialist oral health volunteers who provide their time, expertise and practice facilities at no cost to patients.

We also fund programs that facilitate better long-term oral health outcomes through our Healthier Smiles Community Service Grants and Oral Health Education Projects and reduce the inequality of access to education through our Indigenous Study Grants.

To date, we have created change for thousands of community members by enabling the pro bono delivery of more than \$6,000,000 of professional oral health services.

We would like to thank all of our volunteer dental practices who make our programs possible as well as those individuals and companies who generously offer their financial support to our programs.

## Volunteer Program Outcomes

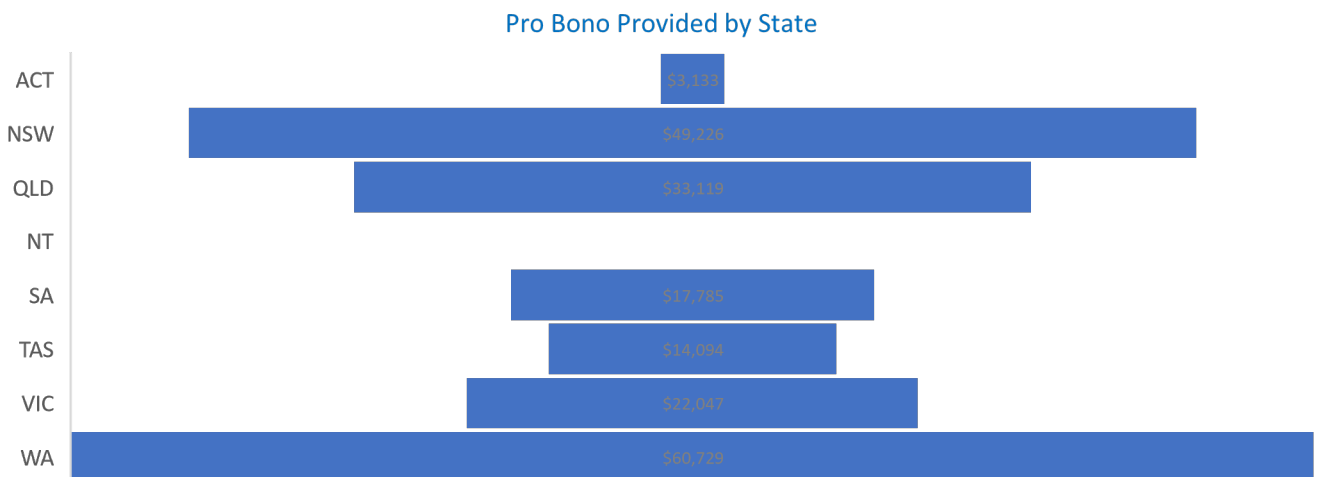
In this second quarter of financial year 2023 (Oct-Dec), the Foundation coordinated **9 Dental Rescue Days®** around Australia, providing **42** appointments to disadvantaged patients. The Dental Rescue Day® program coordinates access to local private practices and clinics for eligible patients, whereby a group of patients will receive a comprehensive general oral check-up in a single day as well as treatment for acute concerns.

**197** appointments were attended by patients under the **Adopt a Patient** program. Under this program, an individual patient attends a local private practice or clinic to receive dental treatment and will usually require several appointments to address their often more complex oral health issues. Currently there are **44** patients being treated under the AAP program in practices throughout Australia.

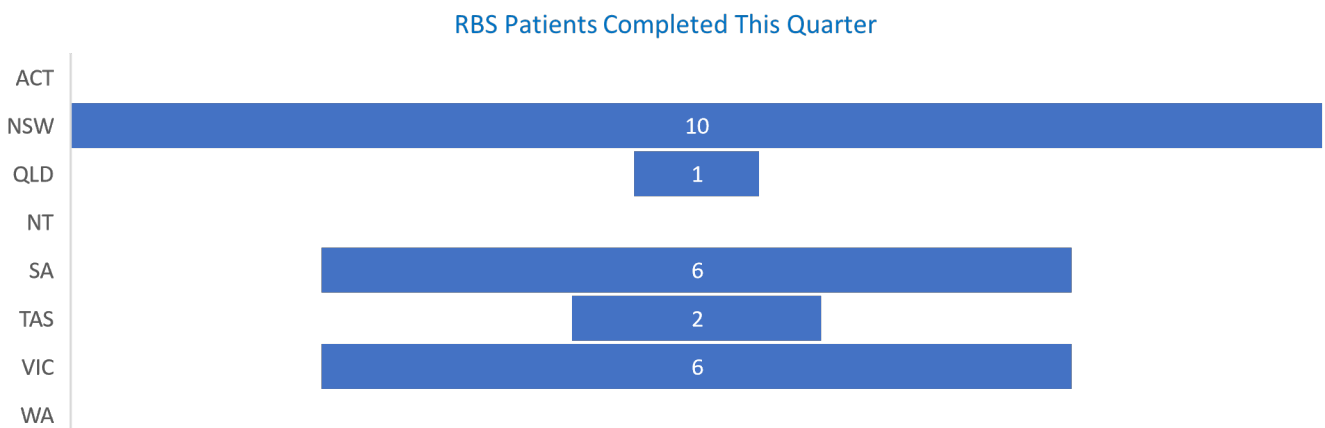
The **Rebuilding Smiles®** program focuses on providing assistance to individuals and families who have experienced family and domestic violence. During this quarter, **25** cases were completed with **59** patients currently connected to a practice or receiving treatment.

Across all three volunteer programs, pro bono treatment of **\$200,133** has been delivered by our volunteer general practitioners and specialists during the quarter

### Total Treatment Delivered by State



### Rebuilding Smiles Completed Cases



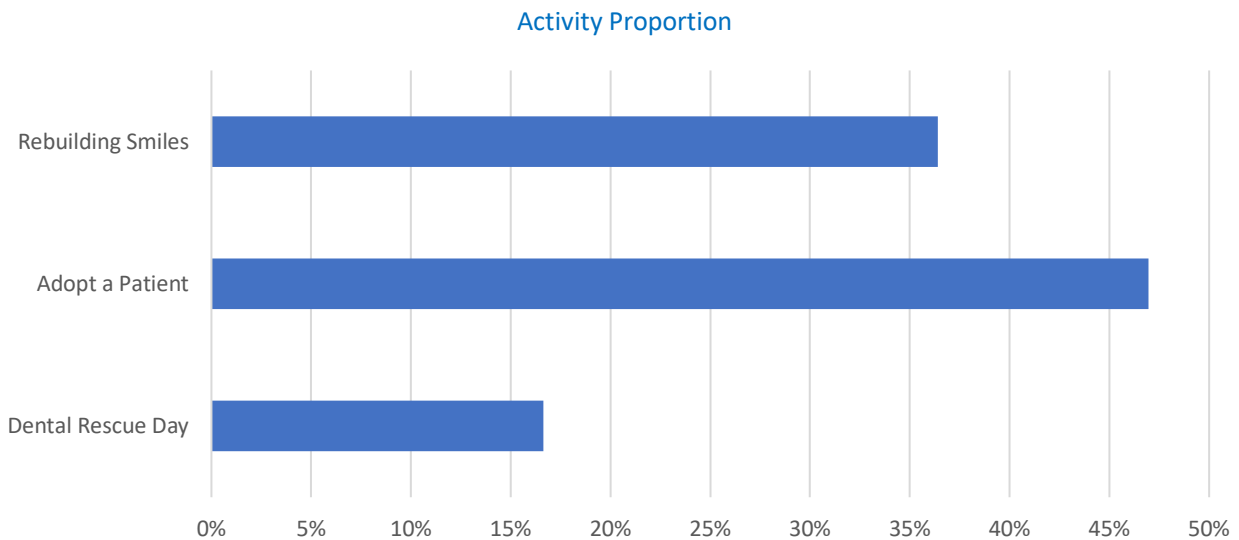
## Volunteers

During the quarter, **68 general dentists, prosthetists and specialists** around Australia provided pro bono services to patients. Additionally, many of their staff were involved with coordinating appointments, assisting in surgery and providing oral hygiene and education to patients.

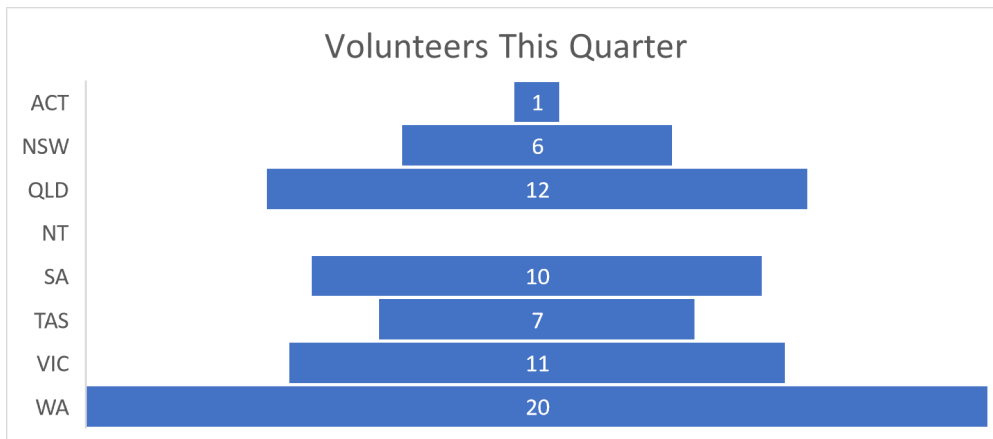
Our Volunteer lists are steadily growing and we have renewed interest and engagement in assisting our programs from those who continue to support our programs. If you know of a colleague who might like to assist us please spread the word about the great value that volunteering can offer.

Our Coordinators continually strive to offer their utmost support to the clients referred to our waiting lists and to the dental practitioners who participate and volunteer in our programs.

### Program Activity by Percentage



### Volunteers by State



## Quarterly Spotlight



For the last 15 years, Dr Henry Gilkes has had the privilege of extending his dental expertise in various structured volunteer program initially with the NDF and ADHF, he hosted Dental Rescue Days® and the highly successful Adopt a Patient program within his former practice. Since retiring, Dr Gilkes continues his dedicated service as a volunteer dentist at Common Ground to see patients who have been referred to the ADA Dental Health Foundation Rebuilding Smiles® program.

“As dentists, we are fortunate enough to be able to use our skills to help those who may not be able to access dental care in a timely manner” Having been bitten by the volunteer bug, Dr Gilkes now extends his compassion to East Timor under the umbrella of the Timor Leste Dental Program and working with a small team to provide much needed dental treatment in remote communities. It is also an opportunity to mentor the local dentists so that they are better able to help their own people.

We thank Dr Gilkes for his unwavering support for the ADA Dental Health Foundation and appreciate all that he does.

Dr Gilkes certainly go above and beyond to assist these patients and they too are very appreciative of his kindness and willingness to help.

Together, we can make a difference in providing essential dental care to those who need it most.

Picture – Dr Henry Gilkes with a patient at Common Ground clinic

### Would you like to Volunteer?

We are sure that many dentists are providing care above and beyond to assist those in need. If you share the desire to contribute further, we encourage you to register as a volunteer on the ADA Dental Health Foundation website found [here](#)

## Other News

### New Website has been Launched

Please take some time to visit our new website which can be found [here](#)

Our newly redesigned website boasts a fresh and appealing look. It provides user-friendly navigation for those interested in volunteering or making donations. Additionally, the site offers comprehensive details on the grants we provide and valuable resources for those involved in treating patients participating in our Rebuilding Smiles® program.

### Return and Earn Continues in NSW



If you are a practice in NSW please keep in mind our return and earn project to raise funds for Rebuilding Smiles® which will be ending in March.

All plastic bottles and cans can be returned and for every container that is 10c to Rebuilding Smiles®. Select Rebuilding Smiles® when you deposit your containers at selected drop off points.

### We would like to extend our thanks

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following clinics for their continued support and offer of their facilities without which we would struggle to treat so many patients.

- ❖ St Pats Oral Health Clinic WA
- ❖ OHCWA/UWA Dental School Clinic WA
- ❖ Filling the Gap Clinic ADANSW

## The Foundation Trustee and Donor



## Supporting Sponsors



## Community Sponsors



## Partners



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Southbank Denture Clinic,  
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With the support  
of Filling the Gap





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