



Annual Report

2024 | 2025





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About us

Vision

To enable disadvantaged Australians to have equitable access to quality oral health care.

The ADA Dental Health Foundation seeks to improve the dental health of Australians who cannot easily access or afford dental care.

Strategic goals

Delivery of care

Coordination of pro bono oral health services by the profession

Oral health education

Promoting the importance of oral health in the community

Create value for the ADA

Develop a strong and active relationship between the ADA DHF and the Trustee

Fundraising strategy

Develop a strong and active relationship between the Foundation and our potential donors.

Chairs report

On behalf of the Advisory Board of the ADA Dental Health Foundation, I am pleased to present this Annual Report to the Trustee and all stakeholders in the Foundation. There have been no changes to the Deed Poll this Financial Year. The one outstanding requirement of the Deed Poll was the vacancy in the position of Foundation Secretary since Mr Robert Boyd Boland retired. The Advisory Board has appointed the ADA CEO pro tem as the Foundation Secretary.

The 2025 Financial Year has turned out to be another very good year in terms of the impact delivered by the hundreds of dentists, specialist dentists, prosthetists and dental laboratories and dental hygienists and oral health therapists who volunteer to provide pro bono oral care for patients referred by the many charities who look after people impacted by domestic violence, homeless people, refugees and asylum seekers and others who fall through the cracks of Australia's private and public dental services. We maintain a list of these referral agencies on the ADA DHF website and we had referrals from more than 200 charities in the FY. More than \$1.39M of impact has been delivered and this represents the Foundation's second largest impact result ever and takes the Foundation's lifetime impact to more than \$9.3M of pro bono dental care. I thank and commend all the volunteers and our partner charities in NSW (Filling the Gap) and WA (St Pat's) for their generous contributions. Notably, there were 21 dental practices, each completing more than \$10K worth of pro bono care this year. The Foundation only operates because of the financial support of the many Sponsors and Donors who provide the budget that allows us to employ our staff including State Coordinators who make it work.

Financially, the year has produced another negative result. This is in spite of the improvement in the value and returns of the Foundation's investments, the retention of many of our regular donors and the attraction of some new donors. A snapshot of the Audited Accounts of the Foundation are included in this Annual Report and I note it is a clean Auditor's report. Our largest corporate sponsor remains A-dec. All our sponsors and donors are acknowledged elsewhere in this report and I thank them all for their generosity and wish we had more like them.

Again, this year the Foundation awarded 10 Healthier Smiles Community Service Grants with the financial support of the Mars Wrigley Foundation. Each grant was worth US\$8,200. It was pleasing that we had strong competition for the grants and the successful grants recipients and projects were spread over most States and featured First Nations focused and regional and remote projects particularly. The ADA DHF also awarded four First Nations Study grants of \$5000 for students studying dental hygiene or oral health therapy.

The ADA DHF Deed Poll Section 4 (a) requires the Advisory Board to make recommendations to the Trustee of plans, undertakings, enterprises, arrangements and other activities conducive to the advancement of the Trust purposes. During the year, the Advisory Board made recommendations to the Trustee of a proposed Operational Plan 2025 (to implement the 2024-26 Strategic Plan), a Draft Budget for FY 2025-26, and on compliance matters associated with the Deed Poll. The Trustee supported all the recommendations as well as reappointing the existing Advisory Board members who were retiring on rotation.

The Foundation was pleased to be awarded the 2025 FDI Smile Award. This is welcome international recognition of the great work our volunteers and staff do. Well done to them all.

I commend the report.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rick Olive'.

Dr. Rick Olive AM RFD
Chair, ADA DHF Advisory Board

Dental Rescue Day's[®] highlights

2024 2025

● **August**

Oral Health Centre of WA (WA)
Gumdale Dental (QLD)

● **October**

National Dental Care Post Office Square (QLD)
Common Ground (SA)

● **February**

Leederville Dental (WA)
Kawana Dental (QLD)

● **May**

QLD Country Dental (QLD)

● **July**

The Smile Lounge (ACT)
More Smiles (QLD)
Tooth Dental (QLD)

● **September**

McCullough Centre (QLD)
Chapel Road Dental (NSW)
More Smiles (QLD)

● **November**

Dental Boutique (NSW)
Shepherd's Hill Dental Centre (SA)
Pioneer Health Dental (WA)

● **April**

Rockingham Dental Centre (WA)
National Dental Care Brisbane CBD (QLD)
More Smiles (QLD)

Performance summary

FY25 Appointment totals

Adopt a Patient
Dental Rescue Day
Rebuilding Smiles

TOTAL
2,272



Rebuilding Smiles® cases

State	Completed cases FY25	Treatment provided	ADA DHF contributions
ACT	0	\$3,858	\$0
NSW	31	\$147,526	\$18,544
SA	7	\$20,770	\$1,484.25
VIC	22	\$60,315	\$4,860
WA	13	\$129,439	\$2,714
QLD	25	\$109,225	\$2,787
TAS	14	\$52,257	\$6,543
NT	0	\$367	\$0

Annual impact FY25

Appointments offered	2280
Rebuilding Smiles cases completed	112
Practices participated	131
Total treatment provided	\$1,396,797

Impact per quarter per state across all programs

State	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
ACT	\$4,841	\$5,848	\$11,520	\$6,485	\$28,694
NSW	\$167,003	\$122,329	\$101,083	\$137,727	\$528,142
QLD	\$55,944	\$57,765	\$29,919	\$66,427	\$210,055
SA	\$13,221	\$21,800	\$14,792	\$14,865	\$64,678
TAS	\$14,126	\$12,539	\$18,654	\$15,778	\$61,097
VIC	\$30,323	\$31,027	\$15,424	\$37,104	\$113,878
WA	\$98,370	\$127,833	\$72,206	\$91,637	\$390,046

Adopt a Patient

This year, our Adopt a Patient program has gone from strength to super strength! Thanks to the generosity of our dental volunteers, 1,143 patients received life-changing care, referred through 216 incredible charities — from organisations supporting the homeless and people in recovery, to those helping individuals impacted by mental health challenges and domestic violence.

132 dental practices across Australia stepped up to offer pro bono care, transforming lives one smile at a time. We can't thank them enough!

Filling the Gap Dental Clinic at ADANSW, continues to treat many of our patients. Since 2021, Dr Andrew Parsons has been making fortnightly visits to help patients in need of dentures and was recently named Filling the Gap's 2025 Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations!

And hats off to St Anthony Dental, who see both ADA DHF and Filling the Gap patients, and were awarded the Filling the Gap 2025 Volunteer Practice of the Year for their unwavering support and service. You've helped bring dignity and confidence back to countless patients. Congratulations and thank you!

In WA, we're excited to welcome HBF Dental as a brand-new Adopt a Patient partner, with volunteer dentists now lending their time and skills across 10 locations. We're so glad to have you on board!

Across the country, so many practices continue to make time in their busy schedules to offer pro bono treatment to those who need it most. The gratitude we see from patients is immeasurable and the impact speaks for itself.



Special Recognition: \$10K+ Impact Champions

The following practices went above and beyond, each contributing more than \$10,000 in value this year. We're blown away by your generosity and commitment:

- St Anthony Dental – NSW
- ADA NSW Charity Clinic (FTG) – NSW
- St Pat's – WA
- The Oral Health Centre of Western Australia – WA
- Pioneer Health Dental – WA
- Dental Boutique Sydney – NSW
- Bellevue Hill Dental – NSW
- More Smiles – QLD
- Edge Orthodontics – QLD
- Pacific Smiles Parramatta – NSW
- Dental Garden – NSW
- OMS South Perth – WA
- Rosewood Dental – QLD
- Kawana Dental – QLD
- The Smile Lounge – ACT
- National Dental Care Brisbane – QLD
- Murray Dental Care – WA
- Rockingham Dental – WA
- We Make Smiles – QLD
- Hyde Park Dental – SA
- Dr Bryan Levy & Associates – NSW

Whether it's one patient or dozens, your contributions are changing lives and proving that a healthy smile can be the first step to a brighter future. Here's to another year of giving smiles, restoring dignity, and showing what compassionate dentistry is all about!

"Our client called himself their 'adopted patient' — he said it with such pride, it gave me tingles."

Support Worker, WA, regarding their client visiting Rockingham Dental Centre.

"I had missing and broken teeth and needed an extensive amount of dental work. Now, I have a nice smile and greatly boosted confidence. I'm so sincerely grateful — it's hard to put into words, but my smile says it all."

Patient, WA, regarding Dr Chris Bucktin and Dr Lee Jasson from Murray Dental Care June 2025.

Dental Rescue Days[®]

Dental Rescue Days (DRDs) are where the entire dental team comes together to make a real difference. Held in dental practices, these sessions give volunteers the chance to use their clinical skills for a good cause and have a great time doing it!

Practices generously donate a half or full day to treat patients referred through ADA DHF programs. It's a high-impact way to help triage patients and provide essential care to those who need it most.

This year, 31 Dental Rescue Days have been held nationally, delivering 398 appointments. What an achievement!

Queensland stole the spotlight this year, hosting an incredible 11 Dental Rescue Days, with some practices running two-day events! We're thrilled to welcome and thank some amazing new QLD clinics who jumped on board: National Dental Care – Post Office Square and Brisbane CBD, and We Make Smiles.

In NSW, Dr Bryan Levy & Associates and the team in Blacktown not only hosted a Dental Rescue Day, seeing an incredible 21 patients, but also went the extra mile by ordering some custom, co-branded Dental Rescue Team shirts to wear on the day and for their Dental Rescue Days in the future—now that's commitment!

Whether it's one day or an ongoing commitment, Dental Rescue Days are a powerful way for dental professionals to give back and get just as much in return. If your practice hasn't joined the movement yet... what are you waiting for?





Rebuilding Smiles®

Founded in 2016, the Rebuilding Smiles program offers treatment to those who have been affected by domestic and/or family violence. While some patients may have experienced direct dental trauma, typically patients have ongoing oral health conditions related to lack of dental treatment over time.

Rebuilding Smiles has assisted many patients this year with 102 cases completed thanks to the many practitioners who have very generously given of their time and compassion to assist these clients.

The ADA DHF is grateful to have the assistance of sponsorship and implant donations from Straumann as well as sponsorship from Colgate and personal donations to this pivotal program.

State Coordinators continue to seek to engage new volunteers and charities, and offer both online and face to face presentations about our programs in their respective states.

"The appearance of my teeth negatively affected my employment opportunities. They also meant that in social situations I felt judged and so I hid my teeth by not smiling and was mindful of how I opened my mouth. I also felt that I embarrassed my partner with my teeth, even though he never said so. I have since regained a lot of confidence and pride in my appearance, I smile constantly, and widely! I'm always taking pictures of my teeth. A lot of childhood trauma seemed to be let go of almost the same day my teeth started to be 'fixed' - even if I could afford all of the dental care - I never would have prioritised myself and spent the money - that's what my trauma taught me - that I am not worth it. And my teeth used to be a reminder of that mindset, but as I look at them, I realise I am not a product of my making, I'm better, I can be better, that I didn't deserve what happened, and it's ok to believe in and invest in myself."

Rebuilding Smiles patient after completing treatment, 2024

Dental laboratories

The ADA DHF has the support of a number of laboratories around Australia which provide pro bono laboratory services for more complex treatments such as crown and bridge, and dentures.

Southern Cross Dental labs

Celebrating a Decade of Support: Southern Cross Dental Lab Honoured for 10 Years of Giving Smiles

Southern Cross Dental Laboratory has long been a quiet hero behind the scenes of the ADA Dental Health Foundation's work and this year, we proudly celebrated an incredible milestone: 10 years of support.

To mark the occasion, ADA DHF National Manager Rebecca McFarlane, NSW State Coordinator Karen Smith, and Filling the Gap Coordinator Juliana Osorio Garcia paid a special visit to the Southern Cross Dental Laboratory in Sydney. The team was there to say a heartfelt thank you and to present Jonathan Evans and his team with a commemorative award, recognising a decade of partnership and generosity.

Over the past 10 years, Southern Cross Dental has played a vital role in helping restore the smiles and confidence of thousands of patients in need, through their expert lab work and commitment to social impact.

"This partnership has made a profound difference," said Rebecca. "From day one, Southern Cross Dental has been incredibly generous with their time and resources. Their contribution has helped change lives."

As we celebrate this milestone, we look forward to many more years of collaboration with the Southern Cross Dental team. On behalf of all the patients you've helped and the volunteers you've supported, thank you.



Oceanic Dental Laboratory WA

Oceanic Dental Laboratory came onboard as sponsors of the ADA DHF in July 2018 and have provided pro bono lab services and dental prostheses including chrome and acrylic dentures, bite blocks and custom trays. For Michael Moran, Nicholas Mann and Gerard Klingeholler and the Oceanic Dental Laboratories team, giving back is part of the culture.

"The values of Oceanic has always been around low-cost dentistry," Michael says. "We knew there were a lot of gaps in pathways for people to get assistance if they cannot afford it, so we were pleased to help ADA DHF."

"The volunteer dentists and practices appreciate the smooth process involved in utilising Oceanic's lab support for pro bono cases. They pride themselves on their professionalism, friendly customer service and high standards. I'm very grateful for Oceanic's ongoing support of our ADA DHF volunteer programs," says Andrea Paterson, ADA DHF WA State Coordinator.

To other dental laboratories considering volunteerism, Nicholas says to do it. "What have you got to lose? It really is a no-brainer," Michael adds. "If you have any time, you should do it. It is good for the soul, and I find it is much better than getting stopped at the shopping centre and being asked to donate to a cause you don't know much about."

Dental Devices

In 2025 we were thrilled to welcome Dental Devices as a new sponsor. Dental Devices are supporting our practices in South Australia with the provision of 3D printed dentures!

When the ADA DHF reached out, Jason did not hesitate! Thank you Jason, and welcome to the team!

TAFE Student Clinic - Southbank QLD

The Southbank TAFE campus has a fully equipped dental laboratory where their dental technician students learn about crowns, bridges, dentures and orthodontics. The students put their knowledge into practice under the guidance of industry professionals. The Foundation has been lucky to have the support of the clinic since 2021, and we thank them sincerely.

First Nations Study Grants

Each year the ADA DHF offers up to four study grants, worth \$5,000 each, to students of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background who are undertaking a course of study that will lead to registration as a dental hygienist or an oral health therapist.

Fulfilling part of the mandate of the ADA DHF, which is to address the inequality between those Australians who can access the dental care they need, and those who can't, the First Nations Study Grants (the Grants),

previously known as the Indigenous Study Grants, offer students funding that may be used to cover costs of dental equipment and textbooks, and to financially support students while they are on placements or living away from home.

This year the Grants opened for applications on 1 March 2025 and closed on 14 June 2025, the following four were selected as awardees.



Sophie Butcher
QLD University, 1st year

As an Aboriginal woman studying a Bachelor of Oral Health, I am committed to addressing oral health inequities in rural and Indigenous communities. Growing up in Rural NSW in towns like Condobolin, Dubbo, and Tamworth, I witnessed firsthand the barriers our communities face in accessing dental care through my three-year Career as a Dental Assistant. My upbringing in a household that cared for over 60 Aboriginal foster children instilled in me a strong sense of Passion and responsibility to give back.



Shay-Marie Hooper
University of Sydney, 1st year

I am an Indigenous woman currently in my first year of the Bachelor of Oral Health (BOH) at the University of Sydney. Growing up, I witnessed firsthand the impact of inadequate oral health care in Indigenous communities. This experience ignited my passion for dentistry and preventive care, as I strongly believe that improving oral health can significantly enhance overall well-being. Through my studies, I am developing the skills and knowledge necessary to make a lasting difference.



Mikala Dimmock
University of Newcastle, 3rd year

I applied for the First Nations Study Grant to help support me financially as I complete my Bachelor of Oral Health Therapy through the University of Newcastle. I am originally from a rural town in NSW, and I moved to the Central Coast to pursue my dream of becoming an Oral Health Therapist. I am currently in my final year of my degree, which requires 600 hours of placement, many external that require travel, of which I find myself worrying about how I will make ends meet.

I am incredibly committed to achieving my goals and once graduated, hope to return home to Tamworth to give back to the community that raised me.



Jessica Tattersall
University of Sydney, 2nd year

I was born in Dubbo; NSW am a proud woman from Wiradjuri country. Currently I am enrolled at University of Sydney, within the Bachelor of Oral Health Program in year 2. The reason I applied for the first nations study grant application is to relieve some financial pressure I am under whilst I am studying as a single mother of two children. The goal for the future would be to create a balanced, stable lifestyle between work and home life to be there for my children.

Healthier Smiles Community Service Grants

The ADA DHF and Mars Wrigley Foundation's Healthier Smiles Community Service Grants program is a well-established initiative supporting dentists and dental students from across Australia who seek to improve oral health outcomes by providing screening, treatment, and education to those most in need.

In 2024, the Healthier Smiles Community Service Grants program awarded US\$107,500 (approx. AU\$154,210) in grant funding to 10 worthy projects, all of which are committed to addressing inequity in dental care by delivering oral health services and education to underserved communities across Australia.

The recipients were spread across Australia, with three projects awarded funds in NSW and Victoria, two in Western Australia and one each in South Australia and Queensland. They included TIMA Rural Outreach Volunteer Clinic who travelled to Kalgoorlie to bring dental care to patients with special needs, socially disadvantaged, on a low income, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders community, and Special Care Clinic who provided dental care in an autism spectrum-appropriate environment (for example, sensory mindfulness, social spacing, longer appointment times, decreased wait times, individual support, and an emphasis on visual communication). This was designed in consultation with Autism Australia.

All 10 of the recipients have successfully delivered on the ADA DHF's mandate to make dental care available to everyone in Australia, no matter where they live or their socioeconomic status.

Grant recipients 2024

- Digital Dentures - NSW
- Barwon Health - VIC
- Carevan Foundation - NSW
- Common Ground - SA
- Condobolin Aboriginal Dental Service - NSW
- Say it With a Smile - QLD
- Smile With Confidence - VIC
- SmileCARE - VIC
- Special Care Clinic - WA
- TIMA Rural Outreach - WA



Restoring confidence, one smile at a time

Alison’s life-changing Rebuilding Smiles journey

When Alison first walked into Murray Dental Care in Pinjarra, WA, it was clear to her volunteer dentist, Dr Lee Jasson this wouldn’t be a simple case. Behind her self conscious smile was someone grappling with dental anxiety, a history of oral health issues, and a deep desire to reclaim her confidence after experiencing domestic violence. Despite her apprehension, Alison was determined—ready to take the first step toward restoring not only her smile but also her sense of self. Dr Jasson was ready to support her journey every step of the way!

Alison presented with significant dental concerns. She was missing multiple teeth, suffered from active periodontal disease, and had several abscesses and infections. Her front teeth were severely decayed and broken down, making her extremely self-conscious. It was something that impacted her daily life, social interactions and self esteem.

The treatment journey was extensive and complex, involving nearly every facet of dentistry: periodontal treatment, endodontics, extractions, restorative work, and prosthodontics. Some extractions were particularly difficult, but Alison remained brave and committed throughout the process. “She was anxious to start, especially about the extractions,” Dr Jasson recalled but over time she “became more confident and excited as each appointment progressed and we slowly rebuilt her smile”.

One of the biggest clinical challenges was managing Alison’s occlusion as she had, over time experienced a collapse of her bite, making it difficult to achieve a functional and aesthetic result. But with careful planning and persistence, each step brought remarkable improvement.

As her smile slowly came together, Alison’s confidence blossomed. She began to light up, not just with her new smile, but with hope.



Alison - before commencing treatment



Alison - after completion of treatment



Murray Dental Care’s Dr’s Lee Jasson, Chris Bucktin, and Practice Manager, Hannah

At her final appointment, Alison was overcome with emotion. “She was so happy and couldn’t stop smiling. She called it life-changing, and I could tell she truly meant it” said Dr Jasson.

As the volunteer dentist, Dr Jasson found the experience was equally powerful. “I had always wanted to volunteer, but with work and family commitments, it was hard to find the time. This opportunity made it possible to help someone in need in a way that fit with my life.”

Volunteering, she said, has shifted her perspective: “It’s incredibly fulfilling. It reminded me of the transformative power of dentistry—not just in terms of oral health, but in helping people heal emotionally and socially too”

“I would like to express how sincerely grateful I am to all involved. It’s too hard to put into words, but my smile says it all!” Said patient, Alison of her experience.

Over the course of Alison’s treatment, Dr Jasson performed over \$10,000 worth of pro bono dental treatment, making her and Murray Dental Care one of the biggest contributors in FY26. We sincerely thank Dr Jasson and Murray Dental Care.

Alison’s story is a shining example of the real impact that compassionate care and skilled volunteering can have. It’s not just about fixing teeth—it’s about rebuilding lives, one smile at a time.

Advisory board



Dr Rick Olive

Dr Rick Olive qualified as a dentist in 1975 with BDS (Hons) from the University of Queensland then undertook specialist training in orthodontics. After a further couple of years as a lecturer at UQ he entered specialist orthodontic practice in 1981 and retired in 2016. He has been the ADA nominee on the Advisory Board of the Australian Dental Health Foundation (previously the Australian Dental Association Foundation) since 2014.

Prof Neil Hewson

A Federal Councillor from 1996 to 2023, Neil has chaired and served on several Federal ADA committees and as Federal ADA President. He currently serves federally as Chair of the Honours and Awards Committee.

A long term Victorian Branch Councillor, he has chaired and served on most Branch committees and as Branch President. Neil is currently Chair of the Branch's Constitution and Policy and Honours and Awards Committees.

A/Prof Hewson was co-author of a paper that led to the establishment of the ADA Foundation and was Vice-Chair of its inaugural Advisory Board.



Dr Chris Wilson

A member of the ADA NSW Council since 1999, Chris Wilson has served as ADA NSW President, in addition to participating in many other ADA NSW and Federal Committees over the years. After finishing dentistry at the University of Sydney in 1979, Chris worked for 18 months as a salaried dental officer then went to work for a private practice in Raymond Terrace, which he now owns and where he still practices on a full-time basis. When not working, one of Chris's regular activities is a yearly charity motorcycle ride for the Royal Flying Doctor's Service to raise money for their Dental Outreach Programme which helps bring dental services to remote communities.

Bradley Abraham

An experienced board director, Bradley Abraham is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Dental Association's SA Branch. He was formerly the CEO and Director of The Royal Institution of Australia, Bradley was the driving force behind the development of it as Australia's first dedicated science multi-media outlet. Specialising in change leadership, Bradley has had over 25 years' senior management experience in the not-for-profit sector, and he is a Fellow of The Australian Institute of Company Directors, Bradley has served on many Boards and Committees.



Dr Gavin Quek

A practicing dentist who graduated from The University of Adelaide in 2021, Dr Gavin Quek currently serves as ADA Tasmania's Secretary and Chairs their Governance and Oral Health Promotion Committee. He is also Vice-Chair of the ADA Inc's Oral Health Committee. Gavin is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and Fellow of the Institute of Managers and Leaders ANZ. Gavin is a passionate volunteer and is currently one of the volunteers under the ADA DHF's Adopt a Patient program. Gavin recently gave a TEDx speech about how curiosity drives contribution and about how oral and general health are so closely connected. He was recently awarded the Premier's Young Achiever of the Year 2023 and was named Hobart's Young Citizen of the Year 2023.

Dr Denise Salvestro

Prior to her retirement from clinical practice, Denise worked as a general dentist in Australia, UK and Italy, with the final 12 years of her practising career spent working in remote communities in the Northern Territory where she and her partner were also involved in setting up pro bono oral health promotion and dental service delivery programs. A member of ADA since graduation, in the late 1970s Denise chaired the Working Committee for compiling a Glossary of Dental Terminology for Health Fund Members, which served as the template for the current Australian Schedule of Dental Services and Glossary. For seven years Denise was a member of the then named CPD Committee of the Federal body and while in the Northern Territory, served several terms as President of ADA NT branch and was a professional officer for the Dental Council NSW 2010 to 2021.



Dr Mark Hutton

Since graduating from Adelaide University in 1975 Mark Hutton has practised in rural South Australia and has had experience on many boards and committees. He has served two terms as ADASA President and been a member of several ADASA Committees. He was an ADA Federal Councilor for many years, ADA Federal President, and was a member and chair of many ADA Committees. In addition he has been a Board Member and examiner of the ADC and is a Board Member of the Australian Dental Research Foundation. Mark has also been a member of various government and university advisory committees. He has served on many not-for-profit organizations in his local area and continues this service as a Board Member of "Four Reasons Why."

State Chairs



Dr Russell Gordon, Chair (WA)

Recently retired from his family dental practice, which he ran for more than 40 years in Rockingham, WA, Dr Russell Gordon was first exposed to the needs of underprivileged communities during his time working on Government dental vans in rural WA. This experience influenced him to run Dental Rescue Days from his practice since the inception of the NDF. Dr Gordon is presently the Chair of ADA DHFWA. He sits on the ADA DHF Steering Committee as well as the ADAWA Volunteers Committee. Beside the regular ADA DHF programmes run in WA, Dr Gordon initiated a partnership of the ADA DHFWA with the St Pat's Community Centre in Fremantle. From this permanent surgery located within the St Pat's Community Centre Building volunteers provide free dental care for homeless people.

Dr Julee Birch BDS, FICD, FPFA, Chair (QLD)

Graduating in 1980, Dr Julee Birch has had an eminent career across the public and private sectors in Australia, and she currently practises at her own clinic on the Sunshine Coast. Dr Birch started volunteering with the Australian Dental Health Foundation in 2012, and she and her team continue to adopt patients and host large annual Dental Rescue Days. Dr Birch has been Chair of the Foundation's State Committee since 2013, and she has held multiple roles at local, State, and Federal ADA, including ADAQ President in 2016. Dr Birch has a special interest in access to dental care for patients impacted by domestic violence, and has dedicated many hours to treating patients, presenting at conferences, and co-writing a resource for dental practitioners. In 2022 Dr Birch was awarded an ADAQ Distinguished Service Award and ADA Valuable Service Award.



Dr Joshua Tirrell, Chair (SA)

Dr Joshua Tirrell graduated from the University of Adelaide in 2003. After working in private practice in Adelaide for two years Dr Tirrell relocated to Hobart for three years before returning to his hometown of Adelaide. For the past 14 years, he has been a principal dentist at Rose Park Dental. Dr Tirrell found himself wanting to help those in need closer to home. He held his first Dental Rescue Day at Rose Park Dental in March 2012, and after being on the State Committee for several years became the Chair in 2020. As well as his involvement with the ADA DHF, he has also held positions on the State Review Committee, been State Coordinator of the ADASA mentorship program, and he was a clinical tutor for final year dental students. In recognition of his contributions to the dental profession and community, Dr Tirrell has been awarded fellowship of the international Pierre Fauchard Academy.

Dr Katy Theodore BDS, FICD, FPFA, Chair (VIC)

After working for four years in the private sector, Dr Katy Theodore moved to the public sector in Victoria in 2013. Identifying as a passionate public health advocate, Dr Theodore has lectured and clinically supervised oral health and dentistry students at both the Victorian universities that offer dental programs, and she has worked in the Integrated Special Needs Department at the Dental Hospital in Carlton, and in remote Indigenous communities of Central Australia. Dr Theodore has also been involved in the evidence synthesis and design for a value-based model of oral health care at the leading public sector agency for oral health in Victoria. With professional interests that span from clinical informatics to behavioural economics, Dr Theodore is currently very much enjoying her role at the Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch in Policy, Advocacy, Research and Health Promotion.



Dr David Digges, (NSW)

After graduating from the University of Sydney in 1981 with a Bachelor of Dental Surgery, Dr David Digges practised in Newcastle, the UK, and Sydney. During his career he has been heavily involved in volunteer dental work both in Australia and overseas in Balgo, in remote WA, and overseas in East Timor. He is a long-serving member of several dental associations including the ADA, the International College of Dentists, and the Pierre Fauchard Academy. Dr Digges was the founder of the National Dental Foundation (NDF) which provided pro bono dental care to disadvantaged Australians, and when NDF became the ADA DHF, Dr Digges held the role of Deputy Chairman for a number of years. He remains actively involved with ADA DHF currently as the NSW Chair. Presently, he is also on the board of Filling the Gap, which assists ADA DHF's Adopt a Patient program within NSW and the ACT.

Dr Martin Viviers, (TAS)

Dr Viviers moved to Hobart in 2007 and shortly afterwards decided that Tasmania is an ideal location to live and work. Two children, a boy and a girl, came soon after to complete the family. Hobbies of sailing, fishing, bushwalking, and triathlons keep him busy after hours. Dr Viviers is passionate about dentistry and has enjoyed the last 20 years of his career.



State coordinators



Rebecca, National Manager

Rebecca commenced in the National Manager's role in July, 2024. Starting out as a dental assistant at the age of 19, Rebecca worked her way up into practice management. While working in dental, she went on to gain qualifications as a registered nurse and then a grad. diploma in Dental Sleep Medicine. After moving into health/program management, Rebecca commenced her master's in health services management. Also having experience in the not-for-profit sector, Rebecca was excited to join the wonderful team.

Andrea Paterson, ADA DHF WA Coordinator

Based in the ADAWA office, West Perth, Andrea Paterson is a qualified dental nurse who was employed as a dental nurse, by a periodontist in private practice, for 16 years before joining ADAWA 11 years ago as CPD assistant. Andrea accepted the additional role as ADA DHF WA State Coordinator in Jan 2017, and today is our longest standing State Coordinator. She is a fan of the West Coast Eagles, and when not watching sport, you will find Andrea enjoying keeping fit, attending the gym, taking group fitness classes and walking.



Natasha Dagley, ADA DHF QLD Coordinator

Joining the ADA DHF in after many years working in the dental field came as a welcomed change, being able to impact the lives of so many patients referred by local charities and organizations. With extensive experience as a practice manager, Tash has developed a deep understanding of the intricacies of dental care management and patient relationships. Passionate about helping those within the local and wider community, Tash is dedicated to connecting volunteer dentists with those who face significant barriers in accessing oral health care. This commitment to making dental services accessible to those most at risk aligns perfectly with the ADA DHF where Tash plays a vital role in facilitating meaningful connections and ensuring dental care reaches those who need it most.

Rebecca Williams, Interim ADA DHF QLD Coordinator

Rebecca has experience across various areas of dentistry, having worked in multiple fields and roles within the profession both within Australia and the UK. She also brings the perspective of a small business owner, giving her a solid understanding of both clinical and operational aspects of healthcare. Passionate about equal access to dental care, Rebecca values the opportunity to contribute to making a positive impact on people's lives.



Karen Smith, ADA DHF NSW Coordinator

Karen is the State Coordinator for NSW, originally hailing from the UK. A dedicated dental hygienist, she graduated from Cardiff Dental Hospital in 1999. Before stepping into her current role, Karen volunteered at the ADA NSW clinic, treating clients from the Dental Health Foundation, and continues to offer her time there occasionally. Working three days a week, Karen is deeply committed to the Foundation's mission of supporting members in delivering pro bono dental care to those in need.

Julianna Garcia Osorio, FTG/ADA DHF Clinic Coordinator

Born in Colombia and raised in Australia, Juliana Osorio Garcia (right) is in love with our country. She is currently the Dental Clinic and Patient Coordinator for the ADHF and Filling the Gap programs. Juliana has completed her Certificate III in Dental Assisting at TAFE, and for the past five years, she has been a dental assistant in a number of dental clinics around Sydney.



Lynda Cunningham, ADA DHF VIC/TAS Coordinator

In June, Lynda retired from her role with the ADA DHF, closing a remarkable chapter of service dedicated to improving health outcomes for those most in need. Her passion for community service continues, with Lynda remaining active in her local area through various committee positions. Her dedication, warmth and commitment have left a lasting impact, and she will be greatly missed by colleagues, volunteers, and partners alike.

Dr. Tori Carter, ADA DHF VIC/TAS Coordinator

Dr. Tori Carter began her career at the Alfred Hospital, later gaining experience at the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne. She has served as a clinical leader at Better Health Network and has spent time in private practice. Known for her collaborative resilience, Tori is passionate about sustainable and equitable dental health services. This commitment has led her to engage with the ADAVB Public Dentistry Committee and subsequently the ADAVB Council. Leveraging her extensive experience in multidisciplinary planning and care delivery within high-demand settings, she supports clients, colleagues, and stakeholders, aiming to enhance outcomes for all through compassionate leadership and mentorship in navigating complex care scenarios.



Ruth Wysinski, ADA DHF SA Coordinator

Ruth holds a Bachelor of Science and Honours degree in Health Science from the University of Adelaide. While studying, she gained valuable experience in the dental field, working alongside a dentist and developing a passion for oral health. Reflecting on her role, Ruth shares: "Being part of something like the ADA DHF, which is quite literally bringing smiles to people's faces, is an amazing experience. We couldn't do it without the incredible volunteers we meet along the way — they are an inspiration to us all." Outside of work, Ruth is a devoted mum of four and loves spending time baking, going for walks, and enjoying bike rides with her family.

Sponsors and supporters

The Foundation Trustee and Donor



Supporting Sponsors



Community sponsors



Partners



Thank you

We 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

Donors

The ADA DHF has received donations and sponsorship from all the companies and other entities and individuals listed on this page during this last year. We wish to recognise their valued contributions and sincerely thank them all.

- Dr Alex Abrahams
Anonymous
Dr Alison Hughes
TDM Charitable Foundation

Queensland Public Sector Dentists Association
Bray Family Fund
Spinifex Trust
Investors Mutual Limited
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Dr & Mrs Mark & Debb Hutton
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Dental Headstart

Bradley Abraham
Ann Adams
Amy Blaylock
ADA Queensland members
Dr Zainab Ahad
The staff at Annandale Village Dentistry, in memory of Dr Stuart Howe
Anonymous
Dr Wael Assaf
Australian Dental Students Association, on behalf of Griffith University students
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Dr Masaaki Nishimura
Melanie O'Farrell
Mr David Owen
St Peters dental Clinic
Mr Peter Plasto
Victoria Perchyonok
Dr Emily Pow
Mr Gordon Proudfoot
Dr Anthony Quach
Ammu Ruby (with thanks to retiring VIC/TAS State Coordinator-Lynda Cunningham)
Dr Maribel Sanchez
Dr P.Hugo Sachs
Dr Denise Salvestro
Mr David Santleben
Dr Chris Sanzaro
SJ and BA Scharrer
Mr Vikram Singh
Kaenaat Sohail
Straumann Group on behalf of Dr Bruno Mattias
Mrs Sharon Szeto Tasmanian Community Fund
Dr Vicky Thai
Dr Kaejenn Tchia
Dinusha Thalagala (in support of Dr Crowther's English Channel Swim)
Dr Geoffrey Verco
S.Walker
Dr Chris Wholley
Dr Chris Wilson
Dr Don Wilson
Mrs Mel Wolfendale
Mr Douglas Wright

Financials

ADA DHF Statement of profit and loss

\$'000	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Revenue					
Grants	21.6	169.6	160.2	143.3	154.2
Donations and Sponsorships	312.6	302.0	228.3	280.2	240.9
Interest and Other Income	7.7	16.8	34.4	31.9	42.0
Gain / (Loss) on Investments	7.9	(65.6)	10.2	43.5	47.7
	349.9	422.7	433.1	498.9	484.8
Expenses					
Community Projects Grants and Donations	99.7	242.7	206.7	162.8	197.5
Administrative Expenses	209.7	214.4	261.6	260.0	340.6
Depreciation	1.8	1.6	.9	1.0	.2
Total expenses	311.3	458.7	469.2	423.8	538.3
Total Income/(loss) for the year	38.6	(36.0)	(36.1)	75.1	(53.5)

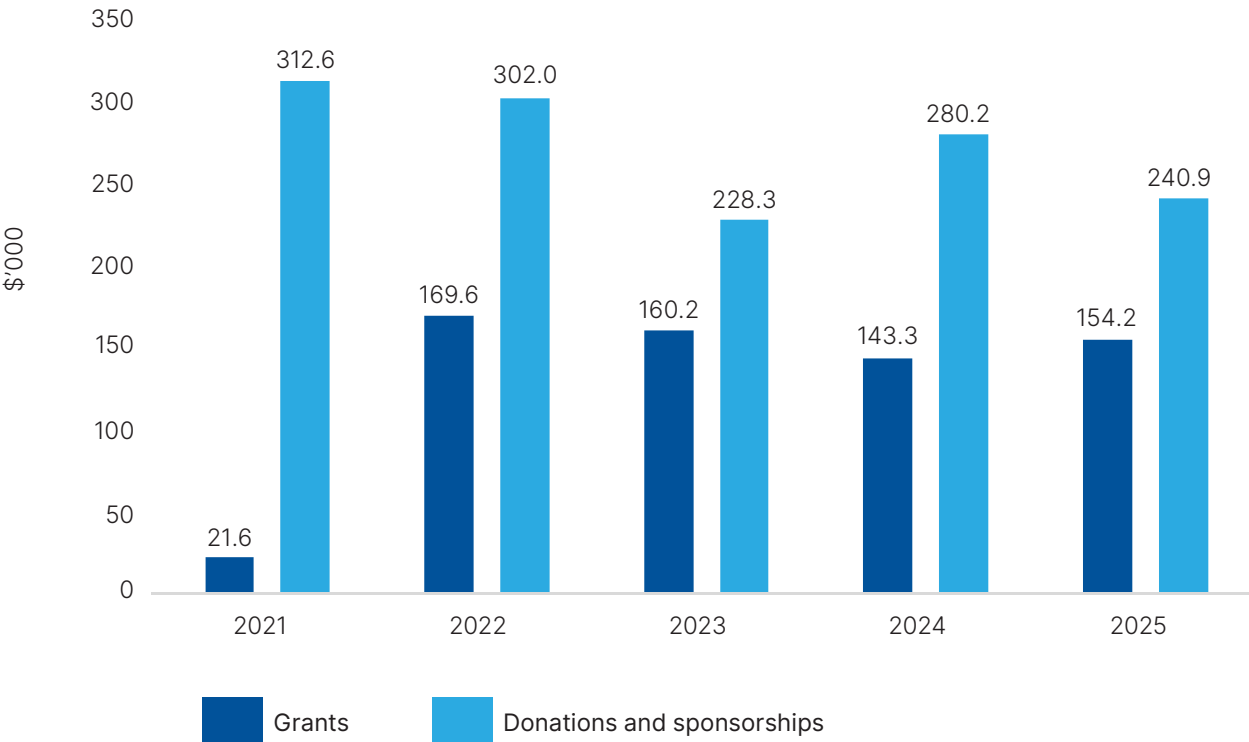
ADA DHF Statement of Financial Position

\$'000	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Current assets					
Current assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	462.0	536.7	540.3	346.1	403.9
Trade and other receivables	-	26.9	27.0	1.1	21.7
Total current assets	462.0	563.6	567.3	362.2	425.6
Non-current assets					
Financial assets at fair value through profit and Loss	647.9	595.8	585.8	679.1	758.9
Plant and equipment	1.6	-	1.1	1.0	1.1
Total non-current assets	649.5	595.8	586.8	680.1	759.9
Liabilities					
Trade and other payables	41.6	44.6	58.0	27.0	61.2
Contract liabilities Total	58.4	139.4	156.7	0.0	163.3
current liabilities	100.0	184.0	214.7	27.0	224.5
Total liabilities	100.0	184.0	214.7	27.0	224.5
Net assets	1,011.5	975.5	939.4	1014.5	961.0
Funds					
Accumulated funds	1,011.5	975.5	939.4	1014.5	961.0
Total funds	1,011.5	975.5	939.4	1014.5	961.0

Financials

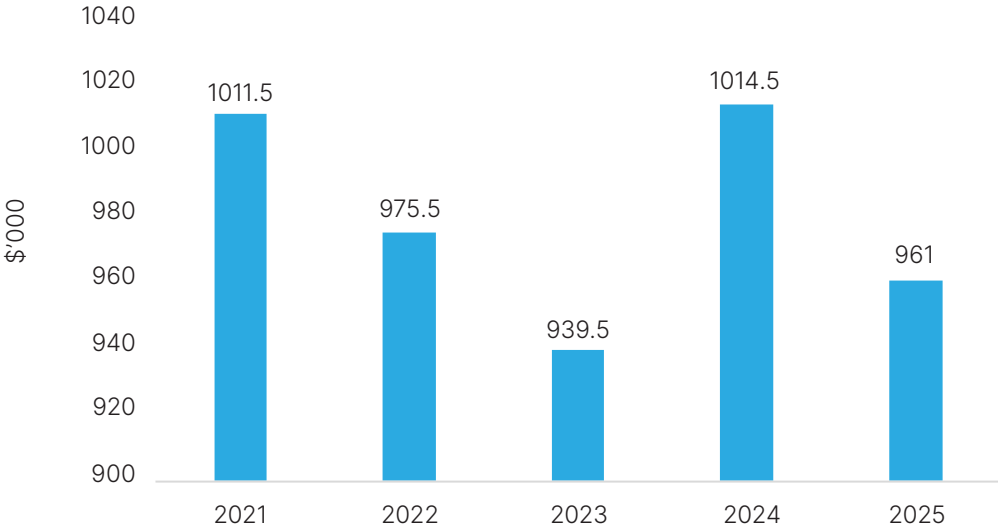
Income from Grants, Donations and Sponsorships

The ADA DHF continues to receive the support of the Mars Wrigley Foundation for our Healthier Smiles Grants .

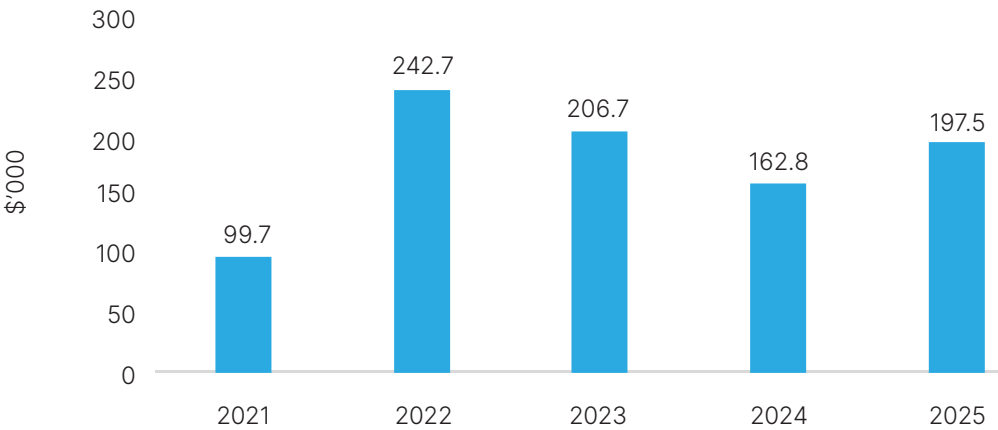


Net assets

The ADA DHF continues to maintain a healthy financial position with assets of around \$1 million during the 2025-2026 period.



Expenditure on Community Projects Grants and Donations





14-16 Chandos St, St Leonards NSW 2065

phone: 02 8815 3333

email: info@adadhf.org.au

adadhf.org.au