

# Volunteer dental programs

Quarterly impact report

1 April - 30 June 2024



## Chairman's Introduction



The Paris Olympic Games have started and Australia is celebrating the success of many new and also many enduring sporting champions. This reminds me that this report is a rare opportunity to celebrate the fabulous work that our volunteers do in providing pro bono dental care to those who otherwise would suffer ongoing dental neglect. In the April to June 2024 Quarter, our wonderful volunteering dental practitioners have generously delivered pro bono dental care to the value of some \$463K, a new record quarter for the Foundation. Our New South Wales volunteers coordinated by Filling the Gap (FTG), lead the way with a record State Impact total but all other States delivered excellent results too

This excellent result means that our Financial Year total impact is the second best on record at \$1.254M and for this I commend all our volunteers, donors and supporters and our staff, our State Coordinators and State Committees.

There is more good news. We most warmly welcome new ADA DHF National Manager, Ms Rebecca McFarlane who joined us a couple of weeks ago. Rebecca has a background in dentistry, nursing and charity management.

There has also been a change on the Advisory Board with Dr Alex Abrahams withdrawing after several terms on the Board. His broad interests in dentistry and business have been much appreciated. Thank you, Alex. The Advisory Board welcomes newly appointed Dr Mark Hutton, recent Past President of ADA Inc to the Board and his background will be advantageous to the Foundation.

In NAIDOC Week, the Foundation announced two Grant recipients for the First Nations Student grants for dental hygienists and oral health therapists. Next month, we expect to announce the successful applicants for the 2024 Healthier Smiles Community Service Grants which we offer with the support of the Mars Wrigley Foundation.

I wish to thank sincerely Ms Lynda Cunningham, our State Co-ordinator for both Victoria and Tasmania for putting her hand up to assist our new National Manager to collate the data and stories for this Quarterly Impact Report, once again.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr. Rick Olive AM RFD

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rick Olive', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chairperson,  
ADA Dental Health Foundation

## Creating impact with the ADA Dental Health Foundation

Our mandate is to improve the oral health of Australians who cannot easily access or afford dental care. We want better access to quality dental care for all Australians regardless of their financial, geographical or social situation.

From the homeless whose dental suffering compounds their more basic struggles, men and women who have overcome addiction and 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, we are here to provide life changing oral health treatment wherever we can help.

Through our Adopt a Patient, Rebuilding Smiles® and Dental Rescue Day® programs, our national team connects eligible individuals with the general dentists, specialists and other professional 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 \$7,700,000** of professional oral health services.

We would like to thank all our volunteers and their dental practices for making our programs possible as well as those individuals and companies who generously offer in-kind donations and financial support to our programs.

## Volunteer Program Outcomes

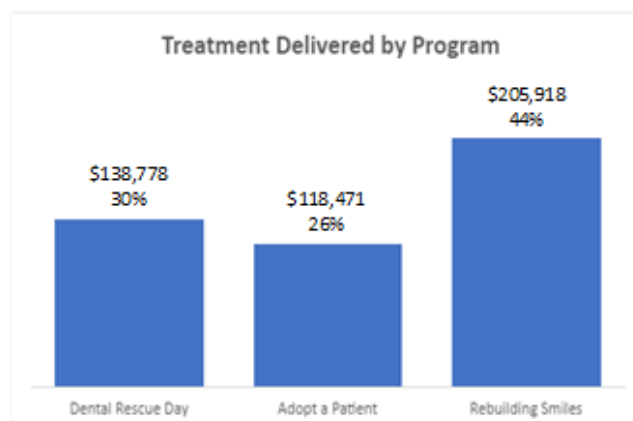
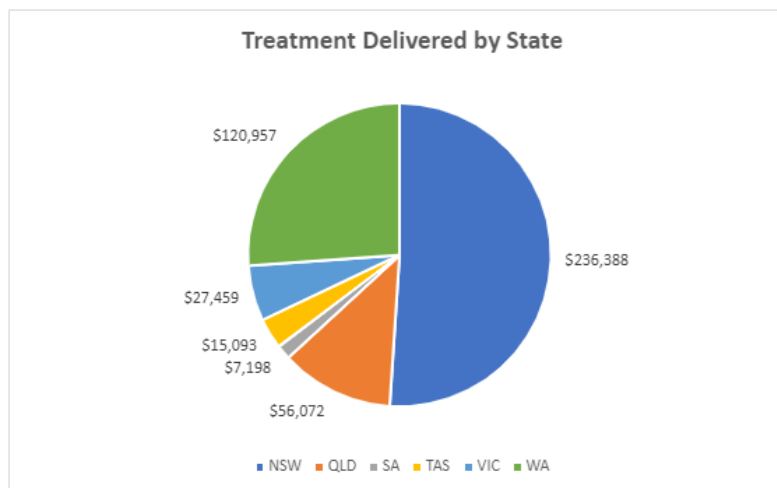
In this fourth quarter of financial year 2024 (April-June) the Foundation coordinated **11 Dental Rescue Days®** around Australia, providing **334 appointments** to disadvantaged patients. The Dental Rescue Day® program coordinates access to local private practices and clinics for eligible patients, whereby a group of patients will receive a comprehensive general oral check-up in a single day as well as treatment for acute concerns, all pro bono.

**177** appointments were attended by patients under the **Adopt a Patient** program. In this program, an individual patient attends a local private practice or clinic to receive pro bono dental treatment and will usually require several appointments to address their often more complex oral health issues. Currently there are **54** patients being treated under the AAP program in practices throughout Australia.

The **Rebuilding Smiles®** program focuses on helping individuals and families who have experienced family and domestic violence. During this quarter, **18** cases were completed with **54** patients currently connected to a practice or receiving treatment.

Across all three volunteer programs, pro bono treatment of **\$463,167** has been delivered by our volunteer general practitioners, specialists and other dental professionals during the quarter.

## Treatment Delivered



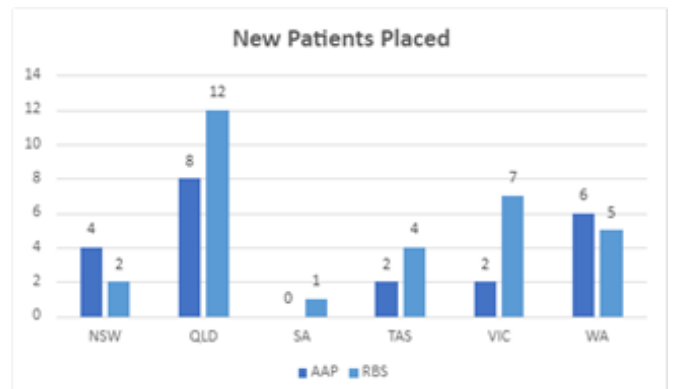
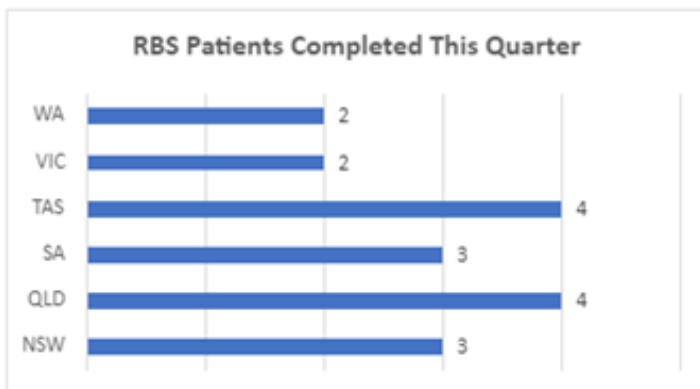
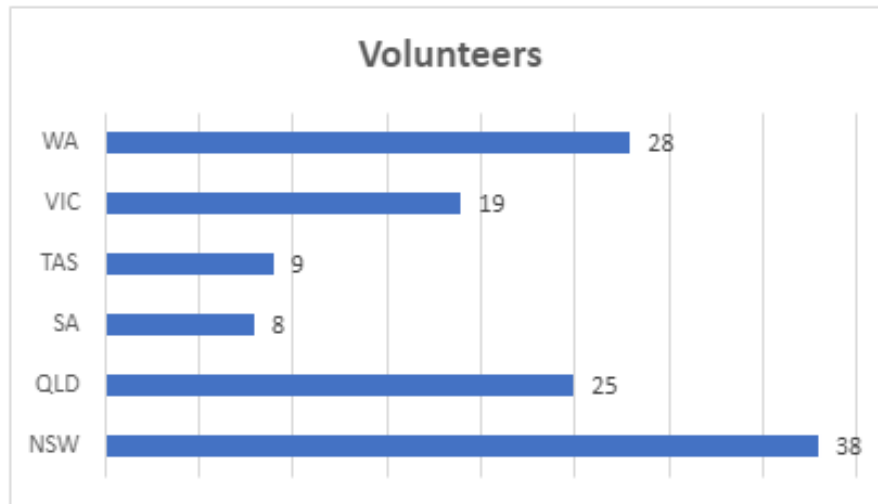
## Volunteers

During the quarter, **127 general dentists, prosthetists and specialists** around Australia provided pro bono services to **328 patients** across all programs. Additionally, many of their staff were involved with coordinating appointments, assisting in surgery and providing oral hygiene and education to patients.

We are constantly striving to increase our database of volunteers. At present, we are going through our database to reconnect with those who may be on our database but have not assisted a patient in recent years and conducting recruitment drives to gain support from new volunteers.

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.

## Volunteer Engagement this Quarter



# Annual Impact

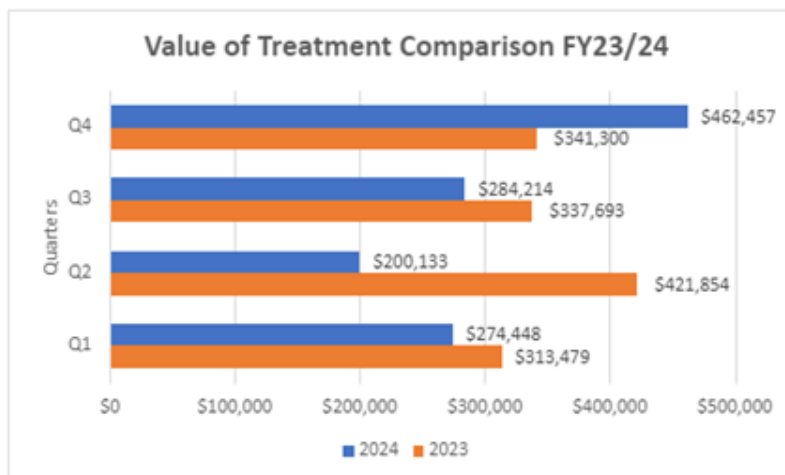
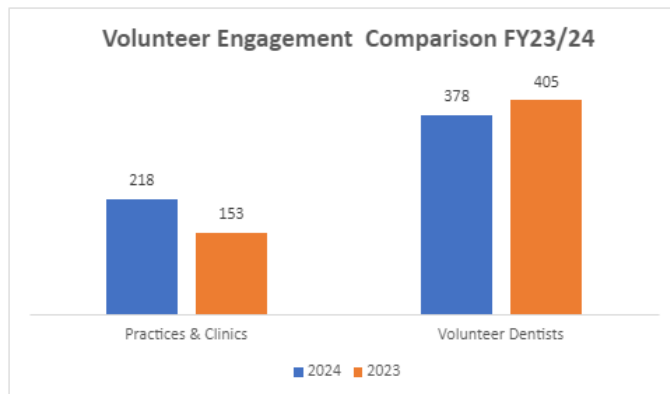
This year, FY2024, we have had an incredibly successful year, here are a few highlights:

Patients treated:	905
Appointments offered:	1375
Rebuilding Smiles cases completed:	66
Practices participated:	218
Total treatment provided:	\$1,254,925
Charities assisted:	371

All our programs: Adopt a Patient, ReBuilding Smiles and Dental Rescue Days continued to be strong providing treatment to the value of **\$1,254,925** to our patients.

We have seen a favourable **increase of 33%** in Practice participation across states, with an additional 104 dentists, specialist and prosthetists volunteering across programs.

## Comparisons FY23/24





## Quarterly Spotlight



*Pictured – Dr Paul Ansell and Dr Zen D'Souza, CP Dental Mater Hill, Qld*

*“The motivation is pretty simple. It is rewarding to help. And the impact it has on the individual can be profound.”*

Dr Paul Ansell and Dr Zen D’Souza from CP Dental Mater Hill have been volunteering with the ADA Dental Health Foundation (ADA DHF) since March 2023 and recently highlighted the powerful impact dentistry can have through volunteering with the ADA DHF .

“For many people, there is such a high barrier to accessing dental care. Those that have suffered additional hardship, financially, physically and emotionally, or in DV circumstances can really find themselves stuck. To be able to partner with the ADA DHF means we can provide more comprehensive treatments that the patients may not be able to normally afford or be provided for in a timely fashion publicly. The vulnerability and financial instability of people in DV situations can stop them from being able to access dental care as their needs shift considerably. Doing "routine" work can be life changing for some patients, and being able to provide this is motivating in itself.

Simply put, the work is incredibly rewarding and hardly a burden.

Our practice has enough flexibility for us to manage our regular patients as well as the ADA DHF patients quite effectively. The motivation is pretty simple. It is rewarding to help. And the impact it has on the individual can be profound. It is also a huge morale boost to the dental team who feel proud to be part of a service. As you become more skilled and experienced as a dentist, providing more complex services is less demanding, so what might seem only a small task for us, is really valued by the patient. Finding hundreds, or thousands of dollars for dental work is simply not possible for many.

We would highly recommend that dentists who have the skills to be a part of the program, do so as it works towards a greater good.”

### 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

### First Nation Study Grants



**First Nations Study Grants** applications have closed. Students studying at Australian universities have submitted applications and we are excited to announce the recipients in in the coming week.

Details will be on our [Website](#) soon.

### Healthier Smiles Community Service Grants



**Healthier Smiles Community Service Grants** applications have now closed and the recipients will be notified in August and published in the August Dental Bulletin. We look forward to seeing this year's grant recipients.

Visit our [Website](#) for previous projects.

### We would like to extend our thanks

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 Patrick's Oral Health Clinic, WA**
- **OHCWA/UWA Dental School Clinic, WA**
- **Filling the Gap Clinic ADANSW**
- **Pacific Smiles Dental Parramatta Student Clinic, NSW**
- **Common Ground, SA**



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St Patrick's Community Support Centre,  
Fremantle, WA



Southbank Denture Clinic,  
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With the support  
of Filling the Gap



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