



Volunteer dental programs

Quarterly impact report

1 July to 30 September 2025



Chairman's Introduction



The Foundation's volunteer dental practitioners have again been generous with their donated oral health services in the July to October period 2025. A total of more than \$318K of pro bono dental care was completed during this first quarter of the 2025/26 financial year. Substantial amounts of this total came once again from NSW through Filling the Gap and Western Australia. Queensland also maintained its recent strong contribution to the

Foundation's impact. I extend a big thank you to all the volunteers and the State Coordinators for their efforts.

One of our practitioner volunteers, orthodontist Dr Lachlan Crowther distinguished himself recently. He achieved the remarkable milestone of successfully swimming the English Channel! At the same time, he was raising funds for the ADADHF. His epic swim raised more than \$12K for the Foundation! Fantastic achievement Lachie and on behalf of the Foundation, I thank you most sincerely.

On the administrative front, I am pleased to report that the Auditors have given us a clean audit report for the 2025 Financial year. Also, the ADA Board has reappointed all those Advisory Board members who were concluding their 2-year terms at the end of June 2025. I welcome the stability and look forward to a busy and productive year.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Rick Olive AM RFD

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Olive".

Chairman,
ADA Dental Health Foundation

Creating impact with the ADA Dental Health Foundation

Our mission is to address the inequality between those Australians who can access the dental care they need, and those who can't.

Our vision is an Australia where no disadvantaged member of our community falls through the cracks and needlessly suffers from a lack of access to dignified professional oral health care.

Through the work that we do, we deliver better access to quality oral health care for all Australians regardless of their 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've created change for thousands of community members by enabling the pro bono delivery of **more than \$9.6M** 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 companies who generously offer their financial support to our programs.

Overview

Patients treated:	351
Appointments (all programs):	679
Rebuilding Smiles Cases Completed:	42
Volunteers:	142
Total treatment provided:	\$318,301
Charities assisted:	119

Volunteer Program Outcomes

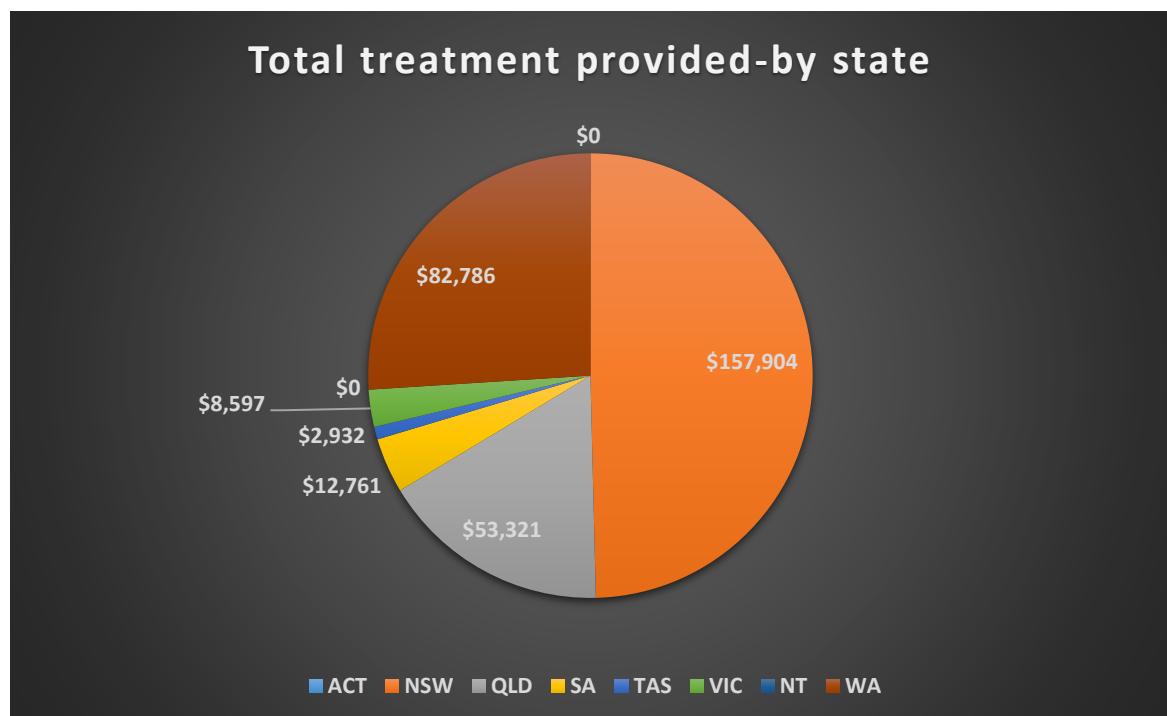
In this first quarter of financial year 2026 (July-Sep), the Foundation coordinated **11 Dental Rescue Days®** around Australia, providing **263** appointments to disadvantaged patients. The Dental Rescue Day® program coordinates access to local private practices and clinics for eligible patients, whereby a group of patients will receive a comprehensive general oral check-up in a single day as well as treatment for acute concerns.

310 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 **90** patients being treated under the AAP program in practices throughout Australia.

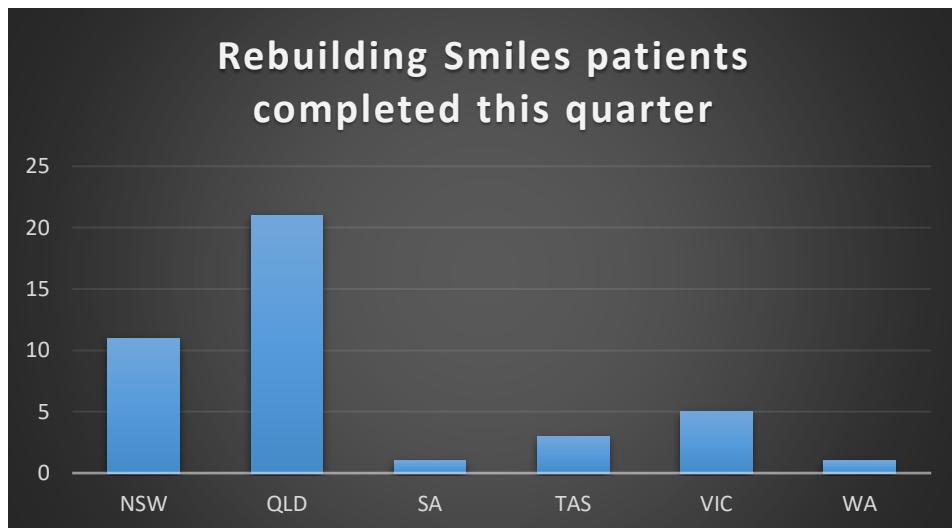
The **Rebuilding Smiles®** program focuses on providing assistance to individuals and families who have experienced family and domestic violence. During this quarter, **42** cases were completed with **87** patients currently connected to a practice or receiving treatment.

Across all three volunteer programs, pro bono treatment of **\$318,301** has been delivered by our volunteer general practitioners and specialists during the quarter.

Total treatment delivered by state



Rebuilding Smiles completed cases



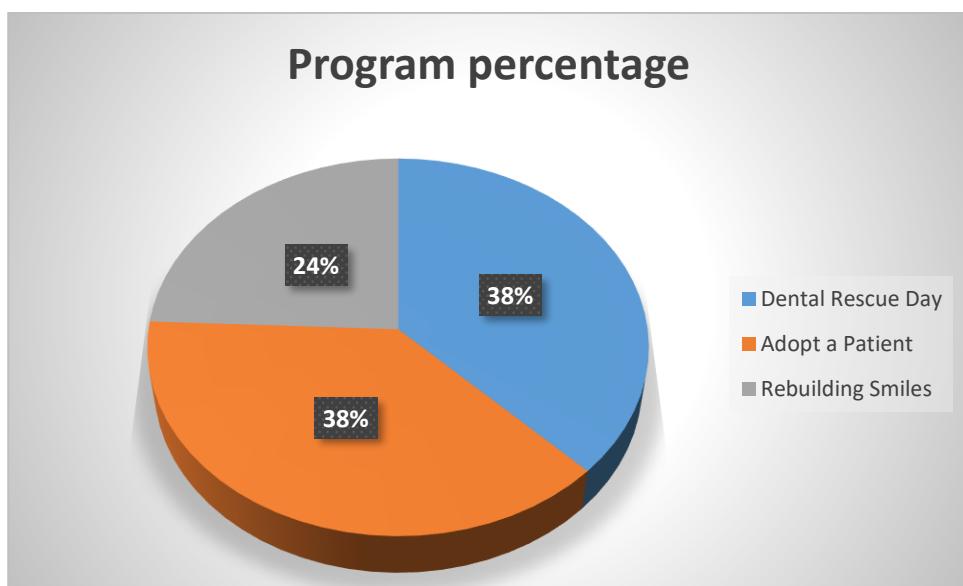
Volunteers

During the quarter, **142 general dentists, prosthodontists 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.

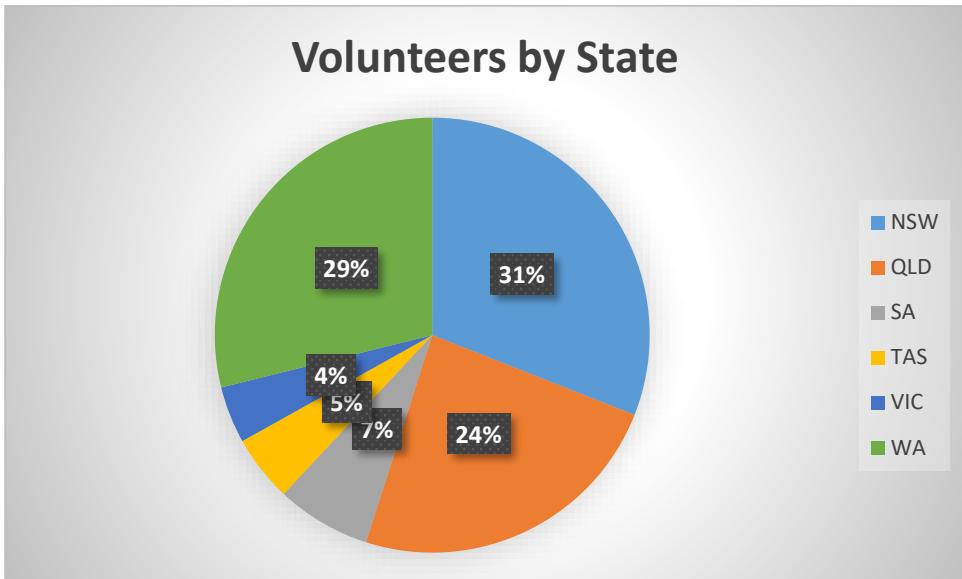
Our Volunteer lists are steadily growing and we have renewed interest and engagement in assisting our programs from those who continue to support our programs. If you know of a colleague who might like to assist us please spread the word about the great value that volunteering can offer.

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



From Clinic to Community: Dr Jenny Liu's Journey of Care

In the heart of Melbourne's CBD, Happy Dentistry is known for the warmth and compassion that radiates from its team. At the helm is Dr Jenny Liu, a dedicated principal dentist whose philosophy is simple yet powerful: treat every patient with kindness, respect, and patience.

After completing her Bachelor of Dental Surgery, Dr Liu built her practice around creating a welcoming space for a diverse community including both English- and Mandarin-speaking patients. From general and cosmetic dentistry to children's dental care, Happy Dentistry offers a wide range of services, all delivered with a gentle touch and a genuine smile.

This year marked a new chapter for Dr Liu and her team as they joined the ADA Dental Health Foundation's volunteer program for the first time. "We wanted to give back to the community and make a positive difference beyond our clinic," she shares. "Volunteering felt like a meaningful way to use our skills to help others and support those who need care the most."

For Dr Liu, the motivation to volunteer stems from a deep belief in the power of oral health to transform lives. "Every person deserves to smile confidently," she says. "Helping others in this way is incredibly fulfilling, it's a reminder of why we all chose this profession."

One particularly memorable moment came when a young couple arrived at the clinic with their baby. While one parent received treatment, the team helped care for the baby, a small gesture that made a big impact. "It was such a lovely moment of connection, not just with the patient but with the entire family," Dr Liu recalls. "It reminded us that dentistry is about caring for people as a whole, not just their teeth."

Volunteering has also offered valuable lessons. "It's reinforced how important communication and empathy are in healthcare," she reflects. "Sometimes the most meaningful care isn't clinical, it's emotional. Listening carefully, adapting to different needs, and creating a calm, trusting space can make all the difference."

Dr Liu believes the biggest impact of the DHF programs is empowerment. "By improving access to dental care and education, these programs help people take charge of their oral health and overall well-being. They also foster trust in the dental profession, showing that we're here not only to treat but to care, teach, and uplift."

To other dental professionals considering volunteering, Dr Liu offers heartfelt encouragement: "Volunteering reconnects you with the heart of dentistry. Even a small contribution can create ripples of change, and the sense of fulfilment you gain is priceless."

After a busy day in the clinic, Dr Liu finds balance in simple pleasures, sharing a good meal with loved ones, practicing yoga, or spending time with her two dogs, Colonel and Sanders. It's this blend of professional dedication and personal warmth that makes her not only a skilled dentist, but a compassionate community advocate.

Other News

A Grateful Farewell to Pam Clark AO



After more than 15 years of extraordinary service, Pam Clark AO has stepped down from her role on the ADA DHF Victorian State Committee. Her unwavering commitment to equitable healthcare access for all Australians has shaped the very heart of our mission.

Pam joined the ADA DHF (then under the NDF) with a clear purpose: to ensure every Australian has access to adequate dental care. Her passion for fairness and equity has driven her tireless work, inspiring clinicians to share their expertise and securing vital industry sponsorships to support our ongoing efforts.

Her contributions have been both personal and profound, offering significant financial support and countless hours of service at the committee level. Pam's legacy is one of generosity, leadership, and enduring impact.

Her achievements have been recognised nationally:

- **Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)** in 2017 for her significant service to the dental sector
- **Honorary Membership at the RACDS** in 2016

Though she has stepped back from formal duties, Pam's continues with her support of ADA DHF, along with other special projects, and we are deeply grateful.

On behalf of the ADA DHF, Pam, thank you for everything.

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**

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Ammu Ruby (with thanks to retiring

VIC/TAS State Coordinator-Lynda

Cunningham)

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Dr Kaejenn Tchia

Dinusha Thalagala (in support of Dr

Crowther's English Channel Swim)

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