



# Volunteer dental programs

## Quarterly impact report

1 [January](#) to 31 March 2024



Dental Health  
Foundation

## Chairman's Introduction



In the first Quarter of this calendar year, January to March 2024, our wonderful volunteering dental practitioners have generously delivered pro bono dental care to the value of some \$280K. Our New South Wales volunteers are delivering again now that Filling the Gap (FTG), the charity set up by ADANSW has ironed out some of the roadblocks which led to a very quiet December Quarter last year. FTG coordinates the ADADHF dental aid programmes in NSW now. All other States delivered excellent results too.

I commend all our State Coordinators and State Committees who work hard to connect our volunteer dentals with the many patients referred by all the charities who rely of the Foundation and its networks for pro bono dental care for their clients.

It is a sad duty to report that our National Manager of the past couple of years, Ms Claire Rawlinson has resigned for personal reasons. Claire will be fondly remembered, not only for her drive and enthusiasm as National Manager, but also as a very effective NSW State Coordinator before she took up the National role. I reflect that the last couple of years have brought the challenges of rebranding, regular Advisory Board changes and changes in the ADA supporting staff. Nevertheless, Claire steered the volunteering programmes to our most productive year in 2022/23 when our volunteers delivered in excess of \$1.4M of pro bono dental care. Well done Claire and our team! We are in the process of recruiting a new national manager.

The Foundation at the time of writing is receiving nominations for the First Nations Student grants for dental hygienists and oral health therapists. Next month we shall open applications 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 stepping into the breach in the absence of a National Manager to collate the data and stories for this Quarterly Impact Report.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr. Rick Olive AM RFD

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rick Olive', written over a faint 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 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 \$7,000,000** of professional oral health services.

We would like to thank all of 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

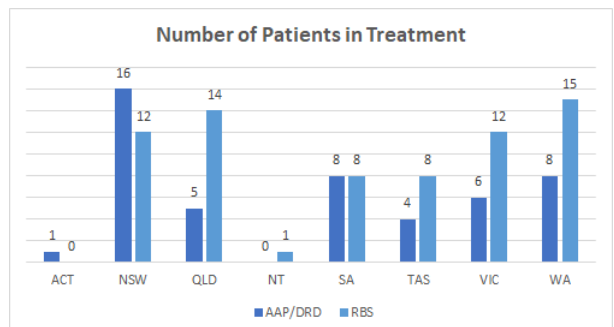
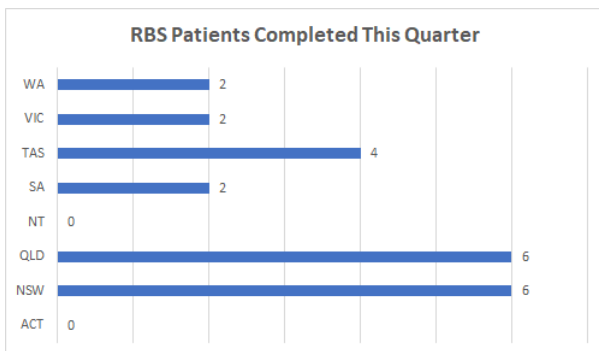
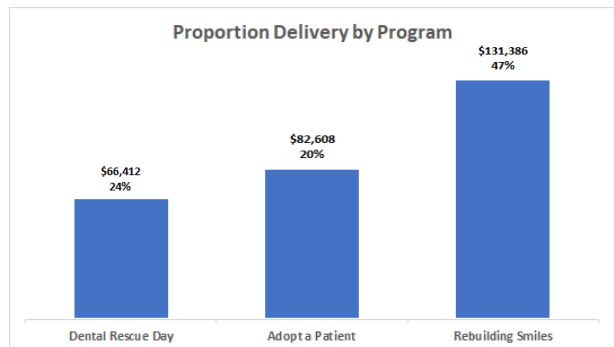
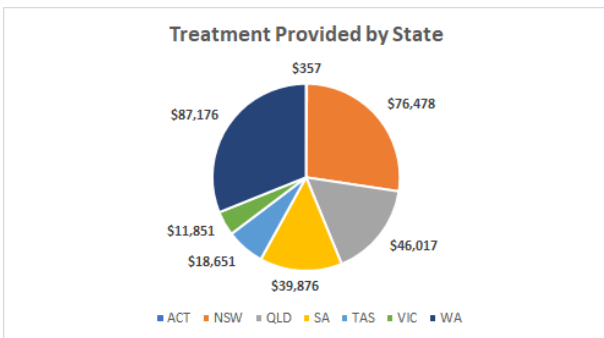
In this third quarter of financial year 2024 (Jan-Mar) the Foundation coordinated **nine Dental Rescue Days®** around Australia, providing 109 appointments to disadvantaged patients. The Dental Rescue Day® program coordinates access to local private practices and clinics for eligible patients, whereby a group of patients will receive a comprehensive general oral check-up in a single day as well as treatment for acute concerns.

**219** 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 dental treatment and will usually require several appointments to address their often more complex oral health issues. Currently there are **48** 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, **22** cases were completed with **70** patients currently connected to a practice or receiving treatment.

Across all three volunteer programs, pro bono treatment of **\$280,406** has been delivered by our volunteer general practitioners and specialists during the quarter.

## Treatment Delivered by State



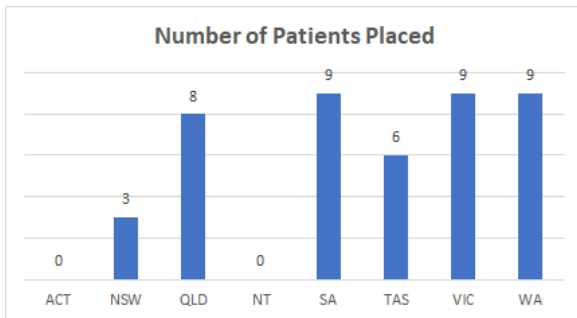
## Volunteers

During the quarter, **106 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.

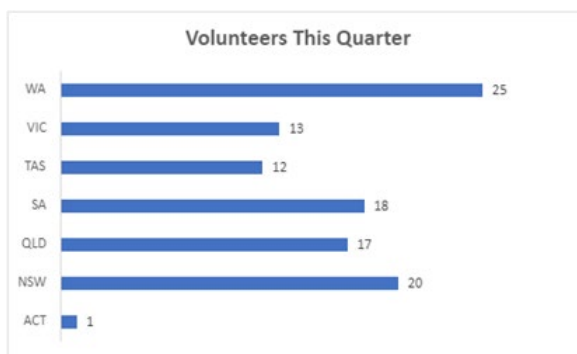
We are constantly striving to increase our database of volunteers. At present, we are going through our database to reconnect with those who may be on our database but have not assisted a patient in recent years and conducting recruitment drives to gain support from new volunteers.

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.

## Number of New Patients Placed



## Volunteer Activity



## Quarterly Spotlight



Picture – Dental Nurses: Rukhsar, Claire & Shir Ley, Dr Ammu Ruby (R)



Picture – Dr Erwin Khoo, Karen, Dr Bruno Lim and Gulnaz, Dental Nurse

Dr Ammu Ruby and Dr Bruno Lim from Dental at Keys & Cranbourne North Dental in Victoria have been regular volunteers for several years in both locations in both the Adopt A Patient and Rebuilding Smiles® programs. Not only do they change the lives of our patients, they enjoy being involved.

*"It has been a really positive experience for us and our teams. Oftentimes volunteering roles are onerous and it is difficult to fit in the overseas travel and time commitments with work schedules. ADA Dental Health Foundation makes it very easy in that we can see the patient in our practice during normal work hours. It is a simple way we can give back to the community. There is great flexibility in being able to provide proper care at your own clinic where you're comfortable working, along with the support of Dental Laboratories that help sponsor lab work as well.*

*We find that dental health is often neglected due to the cost, especially amongst vulnerable communities. It has been great treating these patients and building these connections. They truly value the time you take with them. Our team really enjoys feeling like we've made a difference in someone's Oral Health.*

*It is something that every Dental Practice can easily be a part of and we encourage you all to have a go!"*

Thank you both and your teams for being so generous with your time and resources to bring new smiles to vulnerable people.

## 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** are now open. These grants are for those who are studying Oral Hygiene Therapy or Dental Hygiene and are of a Torres Strait Island or Indigenous Australian background. For further information on eligibility and how to apply, visit our [Website](#).

### Healthier Smiles Community Service Grants



**Healthier Smiles Community Service Grants** will be opening at the **end of April 2024**. Do you have a project that is making a difference to your community's oral health? Or an idea that can improve the oral health outcomes for disadvantaged Australians? The Healthier Smiles Community Service Grants could help. See our [website](#) for details.

### 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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## Community Sponsors



## Partners



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Fremantle, WA



Southbank Denture Clinic,  
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With the support  
of Filling the Gap





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