

Congratulations

The Wrigley Company Foundation and Australian Dental Association announce 2015 Community Service Grant recipients

While oral health in Australia has been improving over the long term, in recent years, there is indication that these positive trends have begun to decline.¹ Despite the rapid growth in the number of dental practitioners, patient access remains problematic with services in rural and remote areas lacking.¹ In addition, many adults able to access dental services avoid visiting a dentist or receiving recommended treatment due to financial strain.² Unfortunately, high costs, limited access and lack of awareness are often barriers to oral care treatment for Australia's most disadvantaged communities.²

"This year's grant winners will undertake invaluable projects that will contribute to improving the oral health care and education of Australians across the country. The Wrigley Company Foundation is honoured to fund the work of these dental volunteers and assist them in improving the oral health of many in need across the country.

The Extra Oral Healthcare Program operates in 47 countries worldwide and engages with dentists on the benefits of chewing sugarfree gum as part of good oral healthcare routine. Initiatives such as the Community Service Grants are dedicated to supporting communities where oral care support is needed most."

— Andrew Leakey, General Manager, Wrigley Pacific

"The ADAF, in partnership with the Wrigley Company Foundation, is proud to announce this year's successful grantees. We must recognise the impressive work that these volunteer dentists and dental professionals contribute to underserved and disadvantaged communities across Australia, providing them with invaluable access to oral health care and education that they would otherwise go without."

— David Owen, Chairman Advisory Board,
Australian Dental Association Foundation

Introduced in 2011, the Australian Dental Association Foundation (ADAF) and Wrigley Company Foundation's Community Service Grants program is a key initiative working to tackle the gap in access to oral care services and education across Australia.

The Community Service Grants are awarded to volunteer dentists, dental students and teams of allied dental professionals, encouraging them to implement oral health community service and education in some of the most high risk and disadvantaged communities across Australia.

This year, the Wrigley Company Foundation has donated a total of US\$82,000 in grant funding to thirteen worthy projects, and are excited to announce the 2015 winners.

This year's grant recipients



Principles in Action Grant (US\$10,000 X 1)

Kimberley Dental Team: School oral health education and tooth brushing program

The Kimberley Dental Team (KDT) is a non-for-profit organisation that provides dental care for Indigenous children and their families in the Kimberley region. This year the team of dental volunteers will deliver the 'Strong Teeth for Kimberley Kids' tooth-brushing program to provide oral health education and demonstrations, toothbrushes and fluoridated toothpaste to all 43 schools in the Kimberley region, reaching an anticipated 4,000 students. KDT will also provide preventative measures and basic dental treatments to children who are in need. Aiming to reduce the need for acute care while promoting oral health in the remote region, KDT's previous annual visits to the Kimberley region have been highly successful, where the program has reduced the rate of decay by 35% in some communities.



Dental Student Grant Category (US\$6,000 X 3)

University of Newcastle: Outreach Oral Health - The Van Experience

The University of Newcastle's oral health van provides free dental health services to disadvantaged communities in Gosford and Wyong, which include low socioeconomic residents who simply cannot afford basic dental care. The 2015 grant will enable the van to operate, providing the 230 members of the community with oral hygiene instruction, dental examinations and take home products to assist them to improve their oral health. The Van Experience will provide final-year Bachelor of Oral Health students with hands-on experience in providing dental examinations, treatment and cleaning.



University of Melbourne: Powering Future Smiles

The Powering Future Smiles project, run by dental student volunteers, will support children's groups in metropolitan Victoria by providing oral health education to 400 primary school children. The team of four dental student volunteers will conduct educational sessions, tooth brushing demonstrations, and provide them with take home oral care products to help children establish positive oral hygiene and dietary practices from a young age, which will serve them well throughout their lives.



Griffith University: Cherbourg Volunteer Dental Clinic

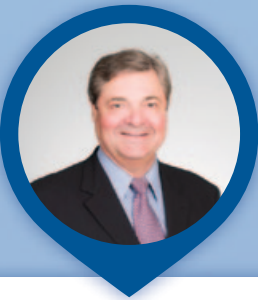
The closest dental health clinic to the rural Cherbourg community is more than an hour away and has a waiting list of two years, making access to dental care difficult. The Cherbourg Volunteer Dental Clinic will provide up to 380 residents of the predominantly indigenous community in rural Queensland with access to oral health care services and education over a week long dental clinic. The 2015 grant will provide Griffith University students with the opportunity to conduct week-long supervised dental clinics, while helping the Cherbourg community transition from emergency dental intervention to preventative dental health.



Dental Professional Grants (US\$6,000 X9)

Sydney Local Health District: Mouthguard program for high need school children

The Sydney Local Health District Oral Health Services and Sydney Dental Hospital run a pilot mouthguard program for high need primary school children in Sydney's disadvantaged areas. The 2015 grant will fund custom-made, protective mouthguards to 40 students in two public schools in Sydney's inner city, and educate the community on appropriate mouthguard use through events and visits to schools across the district.



Cerebral Palsy Alliance: Pilot oral health and hygiene education program for people with Cerebral Palsy

Access to dental services for children and adults with cerebral palsy often presents significant challenges due to the nature of their disability, making maintaining good oral hygiene difficult and sometimes impossible.

The Cerebral Palsy Alliance will develop and deliver the pilot, 'Oral Health and Hygiene Education Program' to clients at Sydney's Cerebral Palsy Alliance Community Access Centre, and in their homes when attendance at a centre is simply not possible.

The funding provided by the 2015 grant will enable volunteers to develop and implement this pilot program, providing up to 450 of those in need with access to oral care and education to improve their oral health, with the aim to extend the program state wide in 2016.



Ballarat Health Services: Smiling Mums & Bubs Dental Clinic

Ballarat Health Services Dental Clinic will run the 'Smiling Mums and Bubs' to promote healthier pregnancies and better oral health for young children in low socioeconomic areas in regional Victoria, and aid in breaking the cycle of poor oral health. A team of six dental volunteers will provide screen examinations to 150 expectant and new mothers about the importance of oral health, and will produce a promotional video following the screenings with patients, to further spread oral health messages following the project.

Filling the Gap: Making oral health available to Indigenous communities

The Filling the Gap project aims to provide aboriginal communities and local schools in regional NSW with access to dental care through a Mobile Dental Van. The 2015 funding will enable volunteers to service two clinics, as well as a mobile dental van over the course of the project. To date, Filling the Gap have coordinated 260 dentist visits and have treated 11,500 patients in remote communities.

Women's & Children's Hospital: Dental health in paediatric oncology patients

Building on former community service grant projects, the 2015 grant will assess the dental treatment needs of 70-80 child cancer patients, the proposed recall program (where patients are invited to undergo further examination) and the implementation of a standardised oral health protocol over 12 months. The data received through the grant will allow the organisation to assess current practice and further refine oral health protocol for these patients.



Little Happy Tooth Company: Special Dental Care

The Little Happy Tooth Company will host workshops for parents with children with special needs, providing free dental check-ups for all children who attend the workshop. The Little Happy Tooth Company will also develop a website to provide information and a range of resources for parents, patients and dental professionals regarding children with special needs. This project in 2015 continues to build on the great outcomes achieved through funding received from previous grants.



Dental Outreach: Senior Smiles

The Senior Smiles Dental Outreach program aims to improve the oral healthcare outcomes and wellbeing for 1,800 nursing home patients in remote and rural South Australia, with a particular focus on high care residents. This year's funding will see the project focus on providing dental examinations and treatments to the elderly through a mobile dental clinic, while promoting oral health education among the patients' families and care givers.



North Richmond Community Health: My Mouth My Health

The 'My Mouth My Health' project aims to improve the oral health of people who inject drugs in Melbourne, and educate them on the importance of dental care as part of a broader health care routine. The 2015 grant will enable volunteers to provide dental examinations, dental hygiene demonstrations and oral health education sessions to more than 80 members of the community with the hope of generating lasting change.

Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service: Supporting Strong Smiles

The Supporting Strong Smiles will provide oral health education to 800 young primary school children in disadvantaged areas in Queensland, to help them establish positive oral hygiene and dietary practices early in life. Students of two local primary schools in Queensland from predominantly disadvantaged and indigenous backgrounds will be educated so they will carry with them the lessons of good oral health as they grow older.



WRIGLEY Company Foundation

1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2014. Canberra: AIHW
2. National Dental Telephone Interview Survey 2010. Canberra: AIHW

About the Wrigley Company Foundation

Established 1987, The Wrigley Company Foundation (WCF) aspires to support People & Planet through oral health education, environmental stewardship, and local community partnerships. For more than 25 years, Wrigley has supported independent, clinical research into the benefits of chewing gum including saliva stimulation and plaque acid neutralisation. The EXTRA Oral Healthcare Program supports oral health professionals in the promotion of oral health benefits of chewing sugarfree gum as part of a regular oral care routine.