

Media Release

Australian Dental Health Foundation



AUSTRALIAN
DENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION
ADVANCING AUSTRALIA'S ORAL HEALTH

4 June 2018

HELP THE AUSTRALIAN DENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION DO MORE

The Australian Dental Health Foundation (ADHF / Foundation) is pleased to announce the provision of over \$1 million in free dental treatment for disadvantaged Australians in 2017-18; \$25,000 of which comes in the form of study grants to support Indigenous dental students and over \$130,000 in community grants.

Using this opportunity, the ADHF is asking the public for financial support to ensure more deserving Australians can receive dental care.

The Foundation's vision is to:

Provide deserving Australians with access to quality oral care regardless of geographic or socio-economic situation

The ADHF expects to provide **OVER \$1,100,000** of assistance in the year 2017/2018. The ADHF has:

1. Provided dental treatment to disadvantaged Australians

Our long running *Dental Rescue Days* and *Adopt a Patient* programs have already delivered free dental treatment of over \$790,000 to deserving Australians this financial year with the expectation that in the full financial year the value of this treatment will exceed \$1,000,000.

In the recently created *Rebuilding Smiles®* program, where victims of domestic violence are provided with free dental care, over 90 applications have been received - mostly from agencies supporting victims of violence. Over \$28,000 of dental care has been provided in the 11 cases where treatment has been completed.

Mr David Owen, Chair of the ADHF, said, "These programs not only provide essential dental care but with that comes the restoration of the patient's self-esteem and well-being, to enable them to re-enter society and provide for themselves and their families".

2. Provision of study grants

To improve the provision of dental services to Indigenous Australians, five study grants of \$5,000 each plus mentoring services will be provided to Indigenous students undertaking courses of study leading to qualification as a dental hygienist or oral health therapist.

The encouragement provided by these grants helps these students obtain their qualifications and then go on to provide valuable care to Indigenous Australians.

3. Wrigley Community grants

To enhance the quality of delivery of dental care over \$130,000 in grants are provided to help bridge the gap in access to oral care and services across Australia for communities in need. Through these grants, funded by Wrigley and administered by the Foundation, volunteer dentists and dental students

help to develop or provide free-of-charge treatment programs to patients from some of Australia's most disadvantaged communities. These programs are often the forerunner to the development of more sophisticated and extensive permanent programs of care.

How do we do this?

Mr Owen continued, "Our supporters and volunteers enable the ADHF to do all this. Our supporters range from all parts of the dental sector and beyond. First and foremost the dentists who provide their generous care; Amalgadent; Australian Dental Association; Colgate; Henry Schein Halas; Pacific Smiles Group, as Major Sponsor of the Dental Rescue Day and Adopt a Patient programs; Praktika; SDI; Southern Cross Dental; Straumann Group and Wrigley Company Foundation, supporters of the Community Grants, and the many others who assist are sincerely thanked for their efforts".

If you would like to volunteer your services let us know by emailing info@adhf.org.au.

If you would like to support us with much needed funds visit: www.adhf.org.au/make-a-donation/



Interviews available with: Mr. David Owen, Chair of the Australian Dental Health Foundation

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