

Pacific Smiles Group Limited renews their sponsorship of the Australian Dental Health Foundation

Pacific Smile Group Ltd (PSG) has recently renewed its sponsorship of the Australian Dental Health Foundation's pro bono dental programs. As the major industry sponsor of the programs, PSG will continue to provide valuable and essential resources that enable the Foundation to coordinate its Dental Rescue Days, Adopt A Patient and Rebuilding Smiles® programs around Australia.



Over the course of the sponsorship arrangement, which commenced in 2015, the Foundation's volunteer programs have experienced considerable growth and last financial year a record \$1.1 million of the pro bono care was provided by volunteer dentists across Australia. With the support of both volunteers and the wider dental industry, the Foundation is in a unique position to improve the oral health and lives of disadvantaged Australians who would otherwise not be able to access the dental care they need.

Phil McKenzie, CEO of Pacific Smiles Group highlighted that their decision to continue as the major industry sponsor of ADHF Volunteer Programs is "an extension of our long-term commitment to the ADHF. Many of our people and the dentists practicing from our centres already give their time willingly and freely to support and provide dental services on Dental Rescue Days and via the Adopt-a-Patient and Rebuilding Smiles programs, while our organisation also provides facilities and consumables at no cost. Pacific Smiles Group is very proud of our association with the ADHF and I look forward to our support of their volunteer programs helping even more Australians in need over the coming year".

David Owen, Chairman of the ADHF Advisory Board, said, "Without the strong support of the Pacific Smiles Group many of our activities would be severely curtailed. Its ongoing support is central to the success of ADHF and we look forward to continuing this bond".

Understanding the DVA Veteran Card – White

Following on from a news story published in the March 2019 *News Bulletin* the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) have released more information on the White Card, part of a new system launched at the start of the year.

Patients who hold a DVA Veteran Card – White can receive DVA-funded healthcare for their disabilities and conditions accepted as war or service related.

In addition, former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) may also receive treatment for the following conditions, whether service related or not:

- any mental health condition;
- cancer (malignant neoplasm); and,
- pulmonary tuberculosis.

To find out if your patients have met the accepted criteria, you can contact DVA to confirm your patient's 'accepted disabilities' and to check if a proposed treatment will be covered under their Veteran Card – White or if it requires prior financial approval.

If your patient is registered with DVA's online portal, *MyService*, they can check their account for a list of their accepted disabilities.

Digital versions of the DVA Veteran Card – White, which a patient can present on their mobile phone or other digital device, displays information about their accepted conditions. This can assist you by not having to contact DVA yourself.



The 'accepted disabilities' for which DVA funds treatment for a client with a White Card are for specific diagnosed conditions. For example, a client's White Card will cover a specific condition involving the knee, but that does not mean it covers all conditions associated with a bad knee. If another condition develops in relation to that body part, for example arthritis, the client may need to submit another claim. DVA is unable to legally fund treatment of diagnoses or conditions which are not part of the client's specific 'accepted disabilities'.

For more information on the DVA White Card or any of the other cards, please visit: www.dva.gov.au/providers