

Get involved with ADA NSW dental aid programs

Change lives THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

ADA NSW channels its dental aid work in two main areas:

- Support of the Australian Dental Health Foundation
- Dental Clinics to treat asylum seekers in partnership with the Australian Red Cross

Over the past year, members have provided pro bono dental treatment worth \$313,732 to 288 patients. The success of our benevolent programs is due to our wonderful members who volunteer their time and expertise to help others. We are looking for new volunteers to join our benevolent programs so that we can provide dental aid for more people in need.

CELEBRATING TEN YEARS PROVIDING DENTAL AID TO ASYLUM SEEKERS

10Years

1000patients

\$500Kworth of pro bono treatment

While there are some pathways for asylum seekers to receive dental treatment in the public system, many live in constant pain waiting. ADA NSW works with the Australian Red Cross to bridge this gap.

This year marked the tenth anniversary of our partnership with the Red Cross providing pro bono dental treatment to asylum seekers. We run four clinics per year staffed by volunteer member dentists and dental assistants.

We also refer patients who need ongoing work to our members who perform treatment at their practices. These practitioners have provided treatment services such as dentures, surgical extractions, root canal fillings and complex restorative care.

The first Red Cross Clinic was held in October 2008 with four volunteer dentists who saw 30 patients and provided treatment to the value of \$15,000. Over the past ten years, we estimate our volunteer members have treated 1000 asylum seekers and provided treatment worth \$500,000.

Key people involved in developing the dental clinics were the then CEO, Matthew Fisher, ADA NSW Policy Manager, Bernard Rupasinghe, and past ADA NSW Councillor, Dr Paul Kotala. Engaged as the Clinical Consultant for Benevolent Programs, Dr Kotala was tasked with operational aspects of running the clinics. He continued to do so for five years and is responsible for the clinic format which is largely unchanged today.

In September, ADA NSW hosted an event to celebrate the partnership and acknowledge the contribution of our volunteers. In his speech, ADA NSW President Dr Neil Peppitt acknowledged the important role the Red Cross staff have in the success of the clinics. “The Red Cross case workers chase up their clients to obtain medical histories for us, they organise appointments and work with us to match the language-speaking ability of our volunteer clinicians with the patients they will treat, and they willingly attend the clinics to help out on the day. It is a great partnership and one we hope will continue long into the future.”



Our member volunteers have treated asylum seekers from the following countries:

- Afghanistan
- Bengal
- India
- Iran
- Malaysia
- Turkey

- Bangladesh
- China
- Indonesia
- Jordan
- Mongolia

SUPPORTING THE AUSTRALIAN DENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

35NSWvolunteers

215patients

\$279,424worth of treatment

Over the past year, ADA NSW members have provided pro bono treatment worth \$279,424 to 215 patients for the Australian Dental Health Foundation.

The Australian Dental Health Foundation (ADHF) is a registered charity whose vision is to address the inequality between those Australians who can access the dental care they need and those who can't.

Through a coordinated volunteer program, the Foundation enables dentists to volunteer within their own practice, providing pro bono dental treatment to those in need.

ADA NSW, in partnership with the Centre for Oral Health Strategy at NSW Health, supports the ADHF by funding a NSW State Coordinator to manage the ADHF programs across NSW and the ACT. The NSW State Coordinator is responsible for managing our member volunteers and liaising with local registered charities and not-for-profit organisations to target patients needing urgent dental care and advice. Patients are aged between 18-65 years and are likely to be involved in programs such as:

- Domestic and family violence support and accommodation service

- Drug and alcohol rehabilitation
- Homeless support/accommodation services
- Refugee and low socioeconomic background support services

The programs run by the ADHF include:

Dental Rescue Days

Dentists and their staff provide dental care to a group of patients within their own practice. Patients are referred by local charities and not-for-profit organisations.

Adopt a Patient

Volunteer dentists and their staff are paired with one patient in need of more complex dental care and the practice will adopt the patient over a series of appointments to complete a course of pro bono treatment.

Rebuilding Smiles

The Rebuilding Smiles program aims to deliver pro bono dental treatment to survivors of domestic violence.



Red Cross, Migration Support Programs Manager, Annie Harvey, presents Dr Neil Peppitt, President, ADA NSW with a certificate of appreciation.



A LITTLE TIME GOES A LONG WAY TO TRANSFORMING SOMEONE'S LIFE

Volunteers needed for our Dental Rescue Day, 23 October in St Leonards

We are looking for volunteer dentists and dental assistants with at least two years' experience to volunteer at the ADA NSW Clinic in St Leonards on Tuesday 23 October to provide acute dental services.

Treatment will include exams, cleans, fillings, simple extractions and ROP. The clinic will be for patients supported by charities and you can join us for part or all of the day.

If you are interested in volunteering in the clinic or would like more information on our benevolent programs, please contact Madeleine Martin, NSW State Coordinator, Australian Dental Health Foundation on 02 8436 9942 or adminnsw@adhf.org.au.

www.adhf.org.au