

MEDIA RELEASE

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ADA NSW statement re: infection control

The NSW branch of the Australian Dental Association (ADA NSW) would like to reassure the public that the risk of contracting blood-borne infections during a visit to the dentist is extremely low.

ADA NSW is working with NSW Health and the Dental Council after a public health investigation into the Cronulla Dental Surgery on Gerrale Street in late 2017 identified problems with the cleaning, sterilisation and storage of dental equipment.

“Cases such as this are very rare,” ADA NSW President Dr Neil Peppitt said. “Our 4,400 members in NSW and the ACT perform millions of procedures every year, and the overall standard of care is outstanding.”

Dr Peppitt said while the risk of a blood-borne infection is low, ADA NSW takes infection control measures extremely seriously.

“ADA NSW is committed to the highest standards of patient care,” he said. “We work to ensure dentists meet required standards and adhere to all relevant professional guidelines.”

Each year ADA NSW offers high-quality training courses in infection control, with the relevant guidelines available on its website.

ADA NSW provides Onsite Infection Control Reviews for practices and information on infection control as part of practice accreditation support. Members can also seek advice on infection control from ADA NSW’s Peer Advisory Service.

NSW Health has set up an information line for current and former patients of the Cronulla Dental Surgery on 1800 610 344.

About ADA NSW: ADA NSW is the peak professional association for dentists and dental students in NSW and the ACT with 4,400 members, representing 70 per cent of dentists. ADA NSW has been supporting dentists and promoting good oral health in the community since 1929.

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