

MEDIA RELEASE

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ADA NSW CELEBRATES LANDMARK 95th ANNIVERSARY

The Australian Dental Association New South Wales (ADA NSW) is honouring its highly valued members and highlighting the crucial role dentistry plays in healthcare as it celebrates its 95th anniversary.

Having launched in 1928 with 70 members, ADA NSW now has about 5,250 members across NSW and the ACT, including 70% of registered dentists.

“I’m honoured and humbled to be President at this landmark moment in ADA NSW’s history,” ADA NSW President Dr Rohan Krishnan, who has participated in celebration events with members past and present as part of commemorations, said. “As a long-standing member, I’m proud to be part of an organisation that continually strives to raise the standards of our profession and helps me be the best dentist I can be.

“Good oral health will always be key to overall wellbeing. Dentistry plays a vital role in relieving patients of unnecessary pain and suffering and helping prevent other chronic and serious conditions.

“The dental profession has changed over the years, but our members’ hard work and dedication to both their patients and the profession has not. I invite all our members to join ADA NSW in celebrating our huge achievements over the decades and help us plan future success.”

Commemorations have also included a specially themed edition of the organisation’s member magazine marking some of the important milestones in NSW/ACT dentistry since 1928. Highlights from the Association’s impressive history can also be explored online via an interactive timeline of landmark moments available on the ADA NSW website (www.adansw.com.au/about/history).

In its 95 years, ADA NSW has made a significant impact in the progression of oral health in Australia. Notable achievements include supporting the provision of dental services during World War Two, driving the widespread introduction of water fluoridation in NSW and the ACT, continually evolving continued professional development and helping unite the profession through its Division and Study Groups, networking events and regular convention.

Other notable achievements include introducing a suite of help resources for dental practices during the COVID-19 pandemic, cementing connections with the University of Sydney and Charles Sturt University’s dental schools and other key stakeholders and industry groups and encouraging the diversity of the profession.

“It’s been wonderful to see the growth in diversity in dentistry,” Dr Deb Cockrell AM, the first female President of ADA NSW branch from 2013-15, said.

“Dentistry has been radically impacted over the years by things such as technological developments, increasing regulation, economic challenges and the impacts of policy changes from state and federal

About: ADA NSW is the peak body representing dentists and dental students in NSW and the ACT, with about 5,000 members. We have been supporting dentists and promoting good oral health in the community since 1928.

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governments. ADA NSW has played a constant role, however, in empowering and inspiring members and uniting the profession.”

ADA NSW plays a vital role in the education of dental professionals across Australia via its world-leading CPD facilities at its St Leonards offices. Thousands of attendees will attend more than 100 courses this year, hosted by nationally and internationally renowned presenters.

Formed in 2018, its Practice Services team has strengthened ADA NSW’s profile as a quality provider of infection prevention control expertise for the dental profession. Its Advisory Services team, comprising a team of Peer Advisors, continues to provide expert dento-legal advice to members.

ADA NSW has also become a leading voice in critical oral health issues. In recent years its representatives have appeared at the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Service, calling for the transformation of oral health provision for older people. It continues to make regular policy submissions and has rapidly built its traditional, digital and social media presence in recent years to help bolster its advocacy efforts and communication with members.

Its Filling the Gap charity (www.fillingthegap.org.au), formed in 2018, has now provided about \$1.5m in pro bono dental work to vulnerable patients. This is thanks to the fantastic work and support from volunteer dental professionals and their practice teams, partner charities and ADA NSW staff.

“I’ve become a dentist because I wanted to change people’s lives for the better and stop them suffering unnecessary pain,” Dr Mohit Tolani, a 2016 graduate and practising dentist in the NSW Illawarra region, said. “I’m also interested in helping tackle and address some of the underlying causes of poor oral health.

“ADA NSW continues to give me the support I need to further develop my skills and knowledge, meet like-minded colleagues and – above all – make a difference. I’m proud to be a member and look forward to growing further with them in the future.”

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For more information or interview/image requests, contact ADA NSW Head of Communications and Public Affairs Faiza Ahmad on 0409 324 925 or email faiza.ahmad@adansw.com.au

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