



Volunteer dental programs

Quarterly impact report

1 April to 30 June 2025



Dental Health
Foundation

Chairman's Introduction



Mid-winter is the time for fires in the fireplace, frosts and end of financial year reflection. It is also the time of year that is coldest and hardest for those patients whom the ADA DHF aims to help with pro bono dental care through our generous volunteers. We measure the impact of our collective efforts by the dollar value of the dental services our volunteers provide, and I am pleased to report that in the April to June quarter this year, our volunteers have provided dental care to the value of more than \$370K. This is the fourth highest impact in a quarter in the Foundation's history. It adds to other excellent quarterly results to tally to our second highest FY result at \$1.396M.

Besides the volunteer dentists, specialist dentists and other dental practitioners, this outcome owes much to the contribution of our partners in providing services under our programmes. Filling the Gap in NSW, St Pat's in Fremantle and OHCWA in Perth all deliver significant totals of impact. It also relies on the efforts of our very committed State Coordinators who connect the patients with the volunteer practitioners. I wish to record my thanks to all of them and I mention Lynda Cunningham in Victoria (and Tasmania) who has left us after many years. She joined us before COVID 19 interrupted all our lives and has stepped in to cover a number of gaps in our staffing over the years. Many thanks Lynda. I also congratulate Natasha Dagley in Queensland who has welcomed another son and will return from maternity leave later this year. I was also very pleased to meet Andrea Paterson in WA at the Australian Dental Congress in Perth in May. Andrea has been our longest serving State Coordinator and does a wonderful job delivering huge impact results for WA.

Nearly every dollar donated to the ADA DHF is used to employ staff to achieve impact. I draw attention to the lists of sponsors and donors at the end of this report, for it is they who make it all possible. A-dec is our largest sponsor but also Straumann and Colgate and several individual donors make substantial donations. ADA Queensland Branch has collected voluntary donations from ADAQ Members along with their annual subscriptions for the third successive year and these amounts add up. I commend and thank all who have contributed. I also draw attention to the fundraising efforts of one of our volunteers, Dr Lachlan Crowther who is planning to swim the English Channel and donate funds raised to the Foundation. Please read our feature later in this Report and support Lachlan.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Rick Olive AM RFD

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Rick Olive', is placed over a faint, light blue rectangular background.

Chairman,
ADA Dental Health Foundation

Creating impact with the ADA Dental Health Foundation

Our mission is to address the inequality between those Australians who can access the dental care they need, and those who can't.

Our vision is an Australia where no disadvantaged member of our community falls through the cracks and needlessly suffers from a lack of access to dignified professional oral health care.

Through the work that we do, we deliver better access to quality oral health care for all Australians regardless of their geographical or social situation.

From men and women who have overcome addiction, who are enduring long-term economic hardship or suffering from mental and physical health challenges; to those establishing their independence after domestic violence has stolen their freedom, and the homeless whose needless dental suffering no longer compounds their more basic struggles. We are there to provide life-changing oral health treatment wherever we can help.

Through our Dental Rescue Days®, Adopt a Patient and Rebuilding Smiles® programs, our national team connects eligible individuals with specialist oral health volunteers who provide their time, expertise and practice facilities at no cost to patients.

We also fund programs that facilitate better long-term oral health outcomes through our Healthier Smiles Community Service Grants and Oral Health Education Projects and reduce the inequality of access to education through our First Nations Study Grants.

To date, we've created change for thousands of community members by enabling the pro-bono delivery of **approximately \$9.3 million** of professional oral health services.

We would like to thank all of our volunteer dental practices who make our programs possible as well as those companies who generously offer financial support to our programs.



Volunteer Program Outcomes

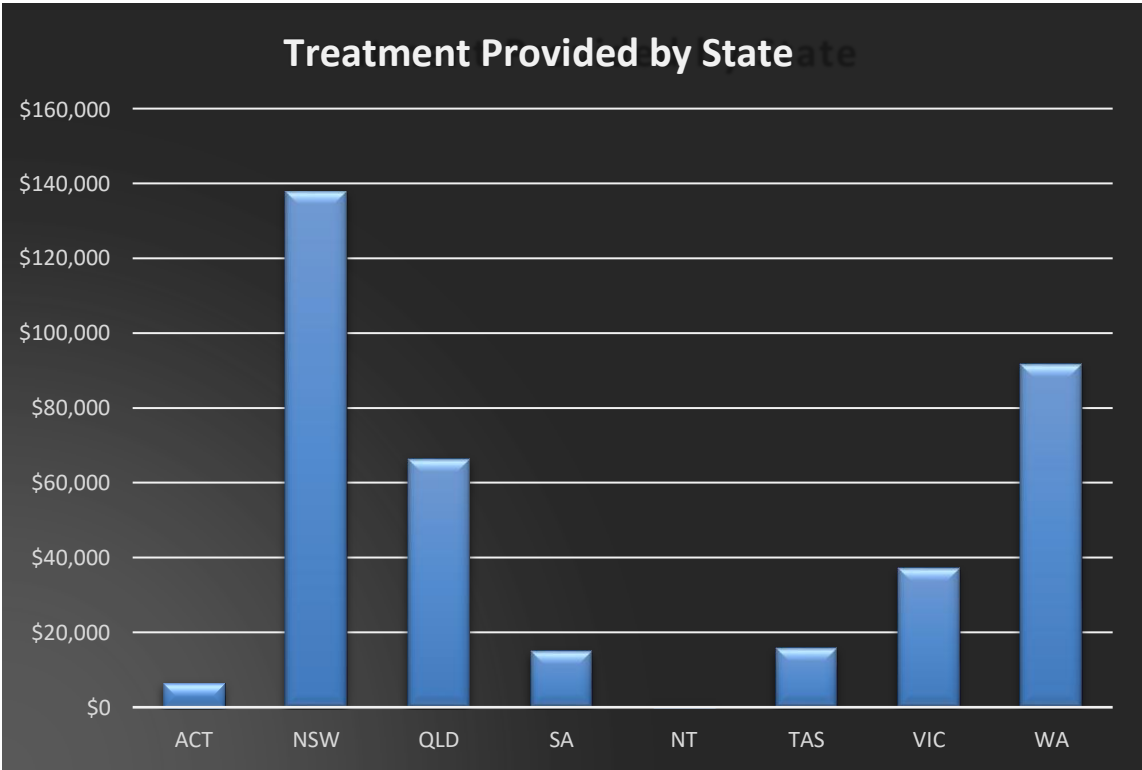
In this fourth quarter of financial year 2025 (Apr-Jun), the Foundation coordinated **11 Dental Rescue Days®** around Australia, providing **125** appointments to disadvantaged patients. The Dental Rescue Day® program coordinates access to local private practices and clinics for eligible patients, whereby a group of patients will receive a comprehensive general oral check-up in a single day as well as treatment for acute concerns.

331 appointments were attended by patients under the **Adopt a Patient** program. Under this program, an individual patient attends a local private practice or clinic to receive dental treatment and will usually require several appointments to address their often more complex oral health issues. Currently there are **76** patients being treated under the AAP program in practices throughout Australia.

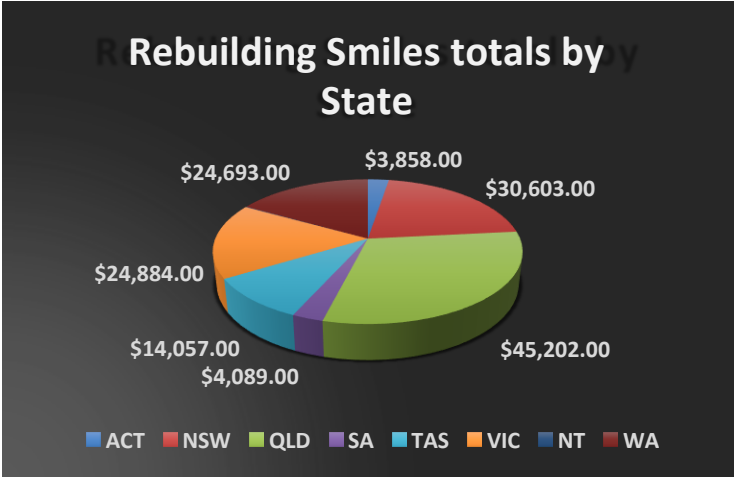
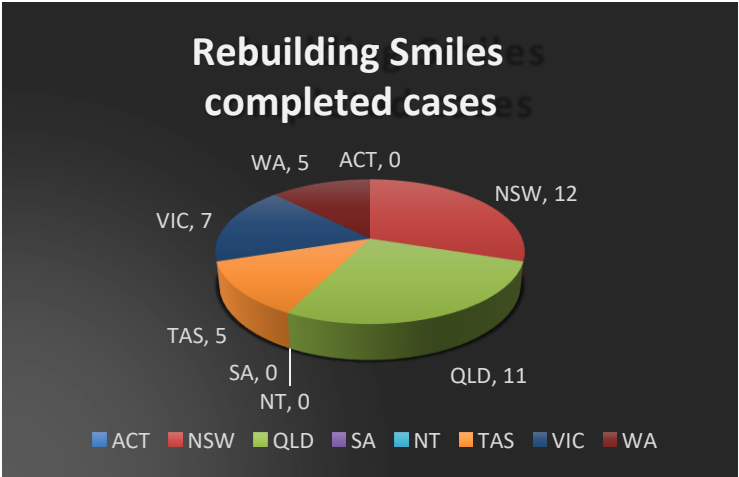
The **Rebuilding Smiles®** program focuses on providing assistance to individuals and families who have experienced family and domestic violence. During this quarter, **40** cases were completed with **89** patients currently connected to a practice or receiving treatment.

Across all three volunteer programs, pro bono treatment of **\$370,023** has been delivered by our volunteer general practitioners and specialists during the quarter.

Total treatment delivered by state



Rebuilding Smiles completed cases



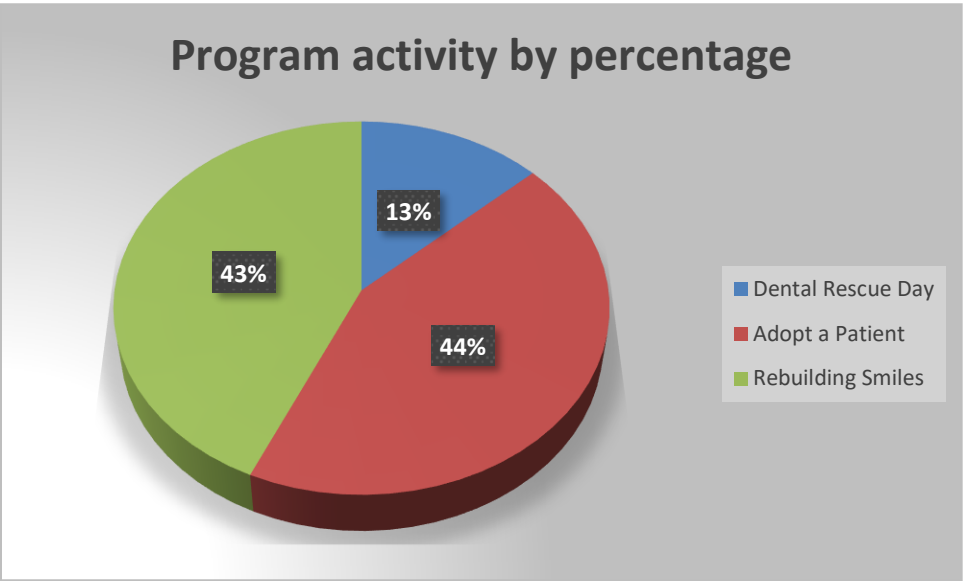
Volunteers

During the quarter, **128 general dentists, prosthetists and specialists** around Australia provided pro bono services to patients. Additionally, many of their staff were involved with coordinating appointments, assisting in surgery and providing oral hygiene and education to patients.

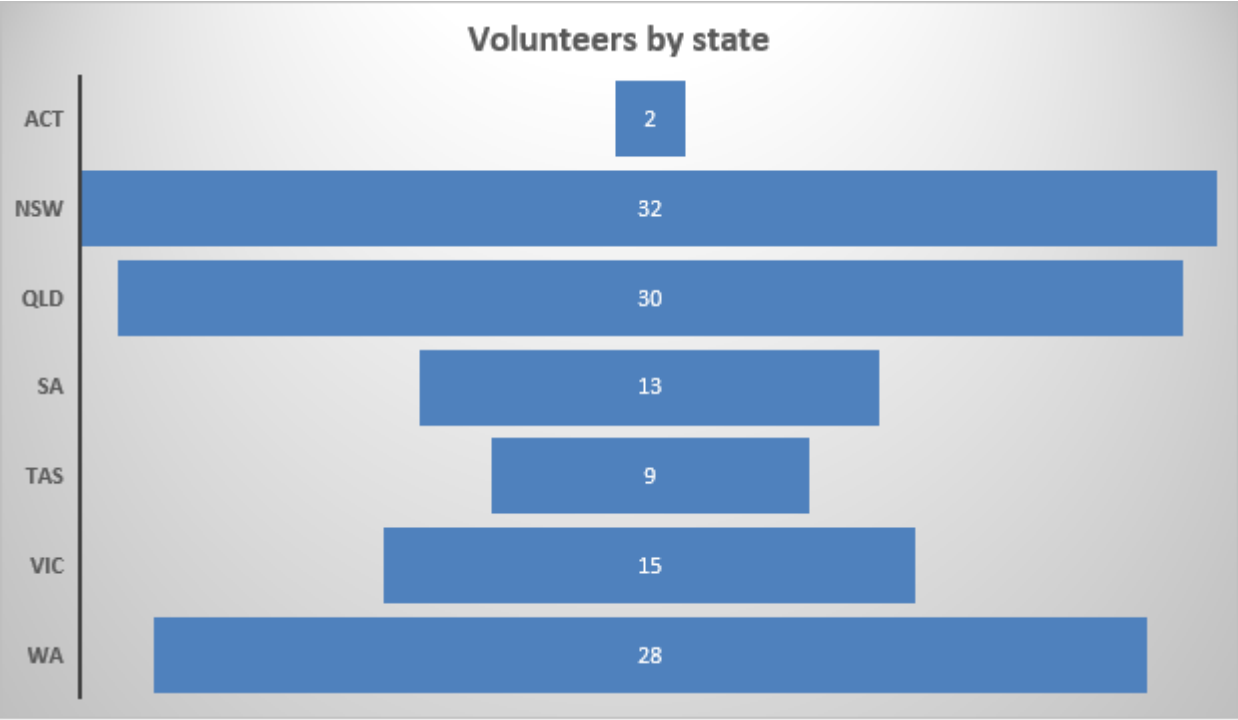
Our Volunteer lists are steadily growing and we have renewed interest and engagement in assisting our programs from those who continue to support our programs. If you know of a colleague who might like to assist us please spread the word about the great value that volunteering can offer.

Our Coordinators continually strive to offer their utmost support to the clients referred to our waiting lists and to the dental practitioners who participate and volunteer in our programs.

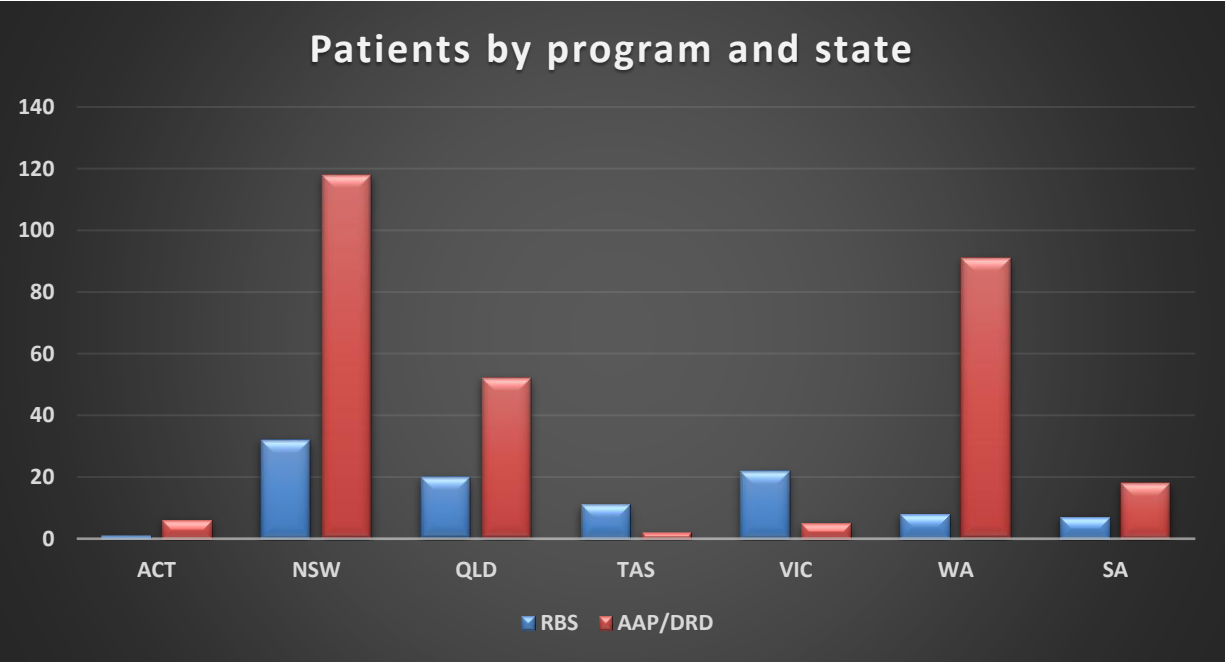
Program activity by percentage



Volunteers by state



Patients by program and state



Volunteer Spotlight: Dr Lachlan Crowther – Swimming for Smiles



Dr Lachlan Crowther's career is a testament to service, resilience, and innovation—and now, he's adding endurance athlete and fundraiser to that list.

Lachlan graduated from the University of Queensland in 2002 and began his career as the sole public dentist across Queensland's vast Central West region. As a Queensland Rural Health Scholarship recipient, he serviced remote communities including Longreach, Barcaldine, Winton and even Birdsville. These early experiences not only developed his clinical skills under pressure but also sparked his interest in orthodontics through his work with the School Dental Service.

Pursuing this interest, Lachlan later completed his orthodontic training in Sydney under Professor Ali Darendeliler,

followed by work in Dubbo and Sydney, before returning home to Brisbane with his wife and fellow orthodontist, Dr Angie Phelan. Together, they established Edge Orthodontics in 2011, while Lachlan continued to provide care to rural communities through regular visits to Roma.



This year, Lachlan is pushing himself even further—across the English Channel. Inspired by a friend's achievement and driven by a personal commitment to resilience, Lachlan is undertaking this grueling swim not only to test his own limits but to raise funds and awareness for the ADA Dental Health Foundation.

"Dentistry often flies under the radar when it comes to charitable causes," Lachlan explains. "Yet we all know

the transformational impact of restoring a smile—especially for those who can't otherwise access care."

Swimming the English Channel is no small feat. The shortest route spans 34km, but with tides and currents, swimmers often cover more than 40km in water temperatures as low as 15°C. To prepare, Lachlan has completed major events including the Perth to Rottnest Island "Port to Pub" swim and multiple 8-hour cold-water marathons in Sydney and Melbourne.

Lachlan's efforts shine a light on the critical work of volunteer dentists and the barriers many Australians still face in accessing oral healthcare. His commitment—both in and out of the water—is helping to ensure that more vulnerable people can access life-changing dental treatment.

We are deeply grateful to Lachlan for his inspiring volunteering and remarkable dedication to our mission.



SMILES ACROSS THE CHANNEL

#SmilesAcrossTheChannel

Dr Lachlan Crowther is swimming the English Channel this September to raise funds for dental care! As a volunteer with the ADA Dental Health Foundation, he's diving in to help more patients in need. Support his swim—every dollar brings a smile!



**DONATE NOW TO SUPPORT
LACHLAN'S JOURNEY FOR A
GREAT CAUSE!**



Other News

First Nations Study Grants

Winners of the First Nations Study Grants were announced during NAIDOC Week in the ADA News Bulletin!

Click [here](#) to meet the four well-deserving recipients.



Healthier Smiles Grants

The ADA DHF and Mars Wrigley Foundation's Healthier Smiles Community Service Grants applications closed on the 30th of June. We had many applications worthy of support. Our ten winners will be announced in the coming weeks!



We would like to extend our thanks

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following clinics for their continued support and offer of their facilities without which we would struggle to treat so many patients.

- ❖ St Pats Oral Health Clinic WA
- ❖ OHCWA/UWA Dental School Clinic WA
- ❖ Filling the Gap Clinic ADANSW

The Foundation Trustee and Donor



Supporting Sponsors



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Community Sponsors

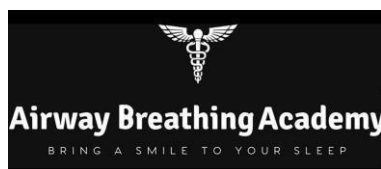




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Fremantle, WA



Southbank Denture Clinic,
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With the support
of Filling the Gap



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Cunningham)
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Dr Bruno Mattias
Mrs Sharon Szeto Tasmanian
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Dinusha Thalagala (in support of Dr
Crowther's English Channel Swim)
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