

The Wrigley Company Foundation and Australian Dental Association Foundation's 2015 Community Service Grant recipients



Since 2011, the Wrigley Company Foundation and Australian Dental Association Foundation (ADAF) have been working in partnership with the Community Service Grants initiative, aiming to tackle the gap in access to oral care services and education in communities across Australia.

From the program's introduction, grants have been awarded to volunteer dentists, dentistry students and teams of allied dental professionals to cover the purchase of supplies, treatments and other expenses to enable them to implement oral health community service and education projects in some of the most high risk and disadvantaged communities across Australia. In 2015, the Wrigley Company Foundation donated a total of US\$82,000 in grant funding to 13 worthy volunteer groups, and a further US\$16,400 to cover marketing and administrative costs.

Through the grants program, more than 6,000 people received free dental treatments, and 6,784 were provided oral health education. A total of 12,790 treatments and/or education sessions were conducted throughout the grant period by 275 volunteer dental professionals who donated more than 7,200 hours of their time to local communities.

The 2015 Community Service Grants collectively achieved the following outcomes:



5,846 patients were screened



6,006 patients were treated



6,784 patients were educated



12,790 treatments* and/or education sessions were provided



275 volunteers[†] donated 7,202 hours across the projects

* The retail cost of treatment provided under the 2015 Community Service Grants would be greater than US\$651,000 (AU\$859,400)
† Dentists, dental students, dental hygienists, oral therapists, community volunteers

During the 2015 program, 13 grants across 3 categories were awarded:



for 'Principles in Action' to help activate larger scale projects



for registered licensed professionals



for currently enrolled dentistry students

Principles in Action Grant (US\$10,000 X 1)

Kimberley Dental Team:

Strong Teeth for Kimberley Kids

The Kimberley Dental Team (KDT) is a not-for-profit organisation that provides dental care for Indigenous children and their families in the Kimberley region. This year, funded by the Wrigley Company Foundation and ADAF community service grant, the team of dental volunteers delivered the 'Strong Teeth for Kimberley Kids' tooth-brushing program, providing oral health education and demonstrations, toothbrushes and fluoridated toothpaste to all 43 schools in the Kimberley region. The grant also enabled KDT to bring basic dental treatments and preventative measures to more than 1,300 children who were in need.



Dental Student Grants (US\$6,000 X 3)

University of Newcastle:

Outreach Oral Health – The Van Experience

The University of Newcastle's oral health van provided free dental health services to disadvantaged communities in Gosford and Wyong. The 2015 grant enabled the van to operate and provide more than 250 members of the community with oral hygiene instruction, dental examinations and take home products. The van provided final-year Bachelor of Oral Health students valuable hands-on experience in providing dental examinations, treatments and cleaning.



University of Melbourne:

Powering Future Smiles

The 'Powering Future Smiles' project, run by dental student volunteers, provided oral health education to more than 400 primary school children in metropolitan Victoria. Funded by the Wrigley Company Foundation and ADAF community service grant, the team of four dental student volunteers conducted educational sessions and tooth brushing demonstrations, while also providing take home oral care products to help the children establish positive oral hygiene and dietary practices.



Griffith University:

Cherbourg Volunteer Dental Clinic

The closest dental health clinic to the rural Cherbourg community is over an hour away and has a waiting list of two years, making access to dental care extremely difficult. The Cherbourg Volunteer Dental Clinic provided up to 380 residents of the predominantly Indigenous community in rural Queensland, with access to oral health care services and education. Furthermore, the 2015 grant provided Griffith University students with the opportunity to conduct supervised dental clinics, while helping the Cherbourg community transition from emergency dental intervention to preventative dental health.



Sydney Local Health District:

Mouthguard program for high need school children

The Sydney Local Health District Oral Health Services and Sydney Dental Hospital ran a pilot mouthguard program for high need primary school children in Sydney's disadvantaged areas. The Wrigley Company Foundation and ADAF community service grant funded custom-made, protective mouthguards for 40 students in two public schools in Sydney's inner city. The project also enabled volunteers to educate the community on appropriate mouthguard use, visiting schools across the district.



Ballarat Health Services:
Smiling Mums and Bubs

Ballarat Health Services Dental Clinic ran the 'Smiling Mums and Bubs' project to promote healthier pregnancies and better oral health for young children in low socioeconomic areas in regional Victoria, in an effort to break the cycle of poor oral health. A team of six dental volunteers provided screen examinations to 150 expectant and new mothers, educating them on the importance of oral health. Following the screenings, a promotional video was produced to further spread awareness of the importance of good oral health.



Women's and Children's Hospital:

Dental health in paediatric oncology patients

The Women's and Children's Hospital addressed the oral care needs of paediatric oncology patients via the 2015 grant. Building on former grant projects, the 2015 project involved assessing the dental treatment needs of 70-80 paediatric cancer patients, the proposed recall program (where patients are invited to undergo further examination) and the implementation of a standardised oral health protocol over 12 months. The data received through the grant has allowed the organisation to assess current practice and further refine oral health protocol for patients.



Cerebral Palsy Alliance:

Oral Health and Hygiene Education Program

The Cerebral Palsy Alliance developed content for the new pilot 'Oral Health and Hygiene Education Program' and was able to deliver it to clients at Sydney's Cerebral Palsy Alliance Community Access Centre and in their homes when attendance was not possible. The 2015 grant contributed to the purchase of specialised equipment and implementation of the pilot program. It provided up to 500 patients in need with access to oral care and education to improve their oral health.

Filling the Gap:

Making oral health available to Indigenous communities

The 'Filling the Gap' project provided Indigenous communities and local schools in regional New South Wales with access to dental care and provided dental health care education with a Mobile Dental Van. The 2015 grant enabled volunteers to service two clinics and the van over the course of the project, which saw 18 dental volunteers visit and provide oral care and treatments to more than 2,340 patients living in remote communities.

Little Happy Tooth Company:
Special Dental Care

The Little Happy Tooth Company hosted workshops for parents of children with special needs, and provided free dental check-ups for all 43 children who attended the workshop. The 2015 grant also enabled the Little Happy Tooth Company to develop a website, providing information and resources to parents, patients and dental professionals regarding children with special needs. The 2015 project continues to build on the great outcomes achieved via previous funding from the Wrigley Company Foundation and ADAF grant program.



Dental Outreach:
Senior Smiles

The 'Senior Smiles' Dental Outreach program worked to improve the oral health care outcomes and wellbeing for more than 1,600 nursing home patients in remote and rural South Australia, with a particular focus on high care residents. The 2015 grant enabled volunteers to provide dental examinations and treatments to the elderly via a mobile dental clinic, while also promoting oral health education among the patients' families and care givers.



North Richmond Community Health:
My Mouth My Health

The 'My Mouth My Health' project worked to improve the oral health of people who inject drugs in Melbourne, while educating them on the importance of dental care as part of a broader health care routine. The 2015 grant supported volunteers in providing dental examinations, dental hygiene demonstrations and oral health education sessions to more than 80 members of the community.



Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service:
Supporting Strong Smiles

The 'Supporting Strong Smiles' project provided oral health education to 800 young primary school children in disadvantaged areas in Queensland, helping them to establish positive oral hygiene and dietary practices early in life. Students of two local primary schools in Queensland from predominantly disadvantaged and Indigenous backgrounds were educated about the importance of oral health, and encouraged to carry on these lessons as they grow older.

