

MEDIA RELEASE

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VOLUNTEER DENTISTS AWARDED COMMUNITY GRANT TO HELP IMPROVE ORAL HEALTH OF THE ELDERLY COMMUNITY IN THE YORKE PENINSULA

To commemorate Dental Health Week 2012 (August 6 – 12), the Australian Dental Association Foundation, in partnership with the Wrigley Company Foundation, is pleased to announce the awarding of a US\$6,000 Community Service Grant to Adelaide's Dental Outreach clinic.

Dental Outreach's volunteer project will deliver on-site dental treatment to mobility constrained nursing home residents located across the state's Yorke Peninsula.

"The Yorke Peninsula has limited access to dental services. As a result, local residents, particularly elderly residents living in aged-care facilities are suffering from oral health problems. This funding supports our goal to improve dental health for disadvantaged members of the community; and in particular those located throughout rural and regional Australia whom are already access constrained," said Dr Greg Miller, Clinical Director, Dental Outreach.

The benefits of this pilot program: patient travel is eliminated, professional dental treatment is provided, and overall oral health is improved.

"Additionally, the elderly will benefit directly from improved oral health as the grant provides education to care givers – providing both treatment and prevention. Our aim is to expand this pilot program to those communities with the greatest needs," said Dr Greg Miller, Clinical Director, Dental Outreach.

Mr Peter Cronin, Chairman Advisory Board, Australian Dental Association Foundation, said, "With dental decay and gum disease two of the most common adverse health conditions in Australia, it's all the more alarming that 90 per cent of dental disease is in fact preventable", said Peter Cronin, Chairman Advisory Board, Australian Dental Association Foundation¹.

"This makes our partnership with Wrigley so vitally important, supporting dentists and students across Australia who volunteer their time and services to assist communities that for various reasons cannot access appropriate dental care. Last year, seven grantees recruited over 75 volunteers to provide more than 4,000 treatments to 1,400 patients," added Mr Cronin.

"We are very proud of our partnership with the Australian Dental Association Foundation. For more than 25 years, Wrigley has been committed to supporting research and philanthropic initiatives that aspire to make a difference to oral health," said Mr Andrew Leakey, General Manager, Wrigley Pacific.

Facilitated by Give2Asia, Dental Outreach is one of ten initiatives to receive a 2012 Community Service Grant, with a total US\$60,000 in grants issued this year in support some of Australia's most "high risk" communities including indigenous, homeless, special needs disability, low income and elderly.

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The Wrigley Company Foundation

The Wrigley Company has a rich history of giving back to the communities where we live and work. Established in 1987 to formalise the giving of grants and donations, the Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company Foundation has distributed more than USD\$50 million to non-profit organisations around the world. The mission of the Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company Foundation is to improve the health of people and our planet through sustainable initiatives focused in oral health and environmental stewardship as well as local needs that ensure a healthy community. Wrigley provides support not only with financial resources, but with the care and compassion of their 16,000 associates who have a passion for service and are provided opportunities throughout the year to exhibit their generous spirit. www.wrigley.com.au

Australian Dental Association Foundation (ADAF)

The Australian Dental Association Foundation's objectives are to promote the prevention or the control of oral diseases and conditions in human beings including, but not limited to fostering and contributing to dental research for the purposes of improving the health of the community; delivering and/or supporting scientific and clinical professional development/educational activities to dental care providers; provision of undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships; provision of funds towards campaigns for public awareness of oral health; and supporting dental aid projects in areas of special need. www.adaf.org.au

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Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (2001) *Oral Health of Australians: National Planning for Oral Health Improvement*, Final Report, Steering Committee for National Planning for Oral Health