Diana Brown, EACH Social and Community Health
2016 Community Oral Health Champion

Diana is not only the Smiles 4 Miles coordinator at EACH Social and Community Health, she also works as a receptionist, providing administrative and customer service support at the clinic. With an interest in health promotion, Diana took on the coordinator’s role at Smiles 4 Miles in 2010. Since then, the number of preschool aged children visiting EACH dental clinic has tripled.

Diana provides training sessions to early childhood educators and assists them in developing healthy eating and oral health policies. She has implemented strategies for family engagement around the key messages: Drink well, Eat well and Clean well and information regarding dental services and healthy eating initiatives available to children has been provided to families.

Diana’s continuing dedication and commitment to this program has seen the number of early childhood services grow from a mere 16 to 43 in 2015, and now there are 60 as EACH expanded into the outer east area, capturing not only Knox, but also Maroondah and Yarra Ranges shires.

Read about Diana in the 2016 Oral Health for Better Health magazine, page 23

Finalists

Dr Brian McGuiness
North Richmond Community Health (NRCH)

After 25 years as an orthodontist Dr Brian McGuinness now volunteers his time and expertise at NRCH’s oral health program. Since April 2014, Brian has volunteered for three hours, four times a month.

NRCH provides health and social support to marginalised communities, primarily to those living in the Richmond high-rise housing estate, including people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and refugees and asylum seekers. The NRCH outreach dental program also provides preventive care to Aboriginal people living in Robinvale.

Not only has Brian’s volunteering helped to address inequity in oral health, through his involvement, NRCH has entered into a partnership with the Melbourne Indigenous Transition School that will enable 22 remote Aboriginal children to receive ongoing oral and general healthcare. This year Brian won the 2016 Minister for Health Volunteer Awards in the category of ‘outstanding achievement by a volunteer: improving public healthcare’.

Jacinta Lenehan
South West Healthcare (SWH)

Jacinta Lenehan is a Health Promotion Officer at Primary and Community Service of SWH and has been involved with the Smiles 4 Miles program since 2014.

Through active liaison and partnership with oral health therapists and ongoing liaison with DHSV’s Smiles 4 Miles coordinators, Jacinta was the driving force that networked and actively engaged local governments and early child centres of the southwestern region. From a humble start of 11 early years centres in Warrnambool in the beginning of 2014, Jacinta has assisted 19 early years centres in achieving accreditation in the Smiles 4 Miles program in March 2015.

By the beginning of 2016, Jacinta has reported that 41 early years centres are now currently registered in the program. She has increased coverage of Smiles 4 Miles and now includes the four local governments of the greater southwestern region; Warrnambool City Council, and the shires of Moyne, Southern Grampians and Glenelg. This is the entire greater southwestern region.
Ballarat Health Services
2016 Public Dental Clinic of the Year

Ballarat Health Services (BHS) Dental had an outstanding year in building and strengthening existing relationships with the wider Ballarat community, Latrobe University and the Grampians region. The dental team has worked hard in identifying, supporting and delivering oral health services to patients by targeting public health priorities as well as offering a wide range of services to patients, promoting good oral health and improving oral health accessibility. Here are some of their achievements:

» creating a supportive structure for staff, students and visitors in a state-of-the-art dental facility
» targeting priority groups recognised by DHSV and worked hard to provide outreach services to help bring dental to those who need it most
» young mums group: working with local educators to support high-risk teenagers aged 14 to 17 years who have become pregnant while at school. BHS has supported 39 teenagers
» homeless youth programs: 50 teenagers who were at risk of homelessness were examined, treated and supplied with oral health kits.

Finalists

Link Health and Community

Link Oral Wellbeing has made a difference in the oral health of disadvantaged populations in the City of Monash and surroundings in the past year. Its Keeping Kids Smiling outreach program engaged in oral health screening of children from schools to promote and educate on the importance of prevention of oral disease.

Prompt oral health interventions can potentially decrease the waiting time for cancer treatment. Link piloted a referral pathway from Monash Cancer Centre to its Oral Wellbeing Department, in collaboration with the University of Melbourne. In this program, Link accommodated 119 cancer patients to see a dental professional and enabled them to start cancer treatment in a timely manner and thus improving the expected patient outcomes.

People with progressive neuron disease have poor oral health and limited access to dental care. The Link team, in collaboration with the University of Melbourne and Calvary Healthcare Bethlehem established an inter-agency collaboration and included dental professionals in a multi-disciplinary team at Calvary to provide dental care to in-patients.

Carrington Health

Carrington Health’s Oral Health Service, operating in Box Hill, is a ten chair clinic providing services to over 7,000 individuals annually, including two children’s dental chairs and a two chair student clinic providing placement year round to final year dental students.

The team focuses on prevention and early intervention. An identified downward trend in preschool age attendance resulted in:

» establishment of an outreach screening and health education program
» screening 478 children, at 30 kindergartens in the past year
» resulting in an increase of 26 per cent in referral and attendance rates.

Carrington Health is committed to integrated care across programs. People with multiple and complex health conditions often face a variety of challenges in accessing the health services they need. The team has chosen innovative, tailored responses, using the resources it has, as well as partnering with others to create service options for priority populations.
Keeping Kids Smiling, Link Health and Community

2016 Oral Health Project of the Year

Keeping Kids Smiling (KKS) was created to address the barriers to oral health access among children in the City of Monash. A small but passionate group of dental therapists, oral health therapists and dental assistants were set for stretching the limitations of public healthcare access. By using a mobile dental service, they engaged in oral health screening of children from schools and kindergartens in the City of Monash and embraced a population health approach to promote and educate on the importance of prevention of oral disease.

KKS raised the bar in what can be achieved in improving priority clients’ access to oral healthcare in Victoria. In the last financial year, the KKS team has visited 32 primary schools and 17 preschools/kindergartens and has screened a total of 9,702 children. 2,518 new children accessed Link through the program and raised the proportion of priority groups accessing care to 63.2 per cent by July 2016. It exceeded the state average by 12.1 per cent and the eastern metropolitan region by 10 per cent. This is an important marker that KKS met needs of this key population group, as parents were previously unaware of dental problems and now these children received timely care.

Finalists

Healthy Families, Healthy Smiles (HFHS)
Dental Health Services Victoria

DHSV’s HFHS initiative is extending the oral health promotion workforce beyond the dental profession and is strengthening the preventive model of care for children 0 to 3 years and pregnant women in Victoria.

Since 2012 more than 3,000 health and early childhood professionals have participated in professional development to build their knowledge, skills and confidence to promote oral health in their everyday work. In addition tools and resources to support their practice have also been developed.

Partnerships have been strengthened or developed with key disciplines, services and settings used by young families creating more opportunities for them to get advice and support for their oral health when they need it. Its partners include midwives, maternal and child health nurses, Aboriginal health services, early childhood educators, supported playgroup facilitators, family support workers, early parenting centres, pharmacists, dietitians, and general practice staff. HFHS has a particular focus on higher risk groups including Aboriginal, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and low income families.

Healthy South West
South West Primary Care Partnership

The South West Primary Care Partnership provides health promotion support to the shires of Corangamite, Warrnambool and Moyne. Within this catchment South West Healthcare provides public dental services over various campuses. Five health services work collaboratively with local government on oral health promotion initiatives supporting 67 early years’ services and 33 schools, via the Integrated Health Promotion Plan.

The goal is to reduce the rising rates of obesity and tooth decay in targeted settings in the South West (Gunditjmara Country). The priority areas of oral health, physical activity, nutrition, and breastfeeding (obesity prevention) have been the 2013-2017 priority areas of focus, in line with the priority areas of the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plans 2015-2019 and the three local Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans.
Dr Martin Hall, North Richmond Community Health

2016 Star of Public Dentistry

Dr Martin Hall, North Richmond Community Health (NRCH) general manager clinical services, oral health manager and senior dentist has been committed to improving oral health outcomes for vulnerable communities over the past 30 years. Dr Hall’s commitment is demonstrated through his vision and determination to implement a very successful, well recognised and evidence based Health Promoting Practice model at NRCH which targets behaviour change in high-risk clients. This initiative has incurred many hours of planning, education and systemic changes over a long period of time. This change required team building and extraordinary leadership to build trust among staff with the aim of staff becoming accepting of the changes and compliance with new practices and procedures. His approach has pioneered the use of Certificate IV Dental Assistants as oral health educators. The outreach components of this model include “Chompers”; a school dental program which saw over 900 children and “Pearly Whites” which has seen over 1,000 aged care residents in the past 12 months.

Finalists

Jeanette Healey
Swan Hill District Health

Jeanette Healey was appointed as dental clinic coordinator in February 2011. Not only has Jeanette been instrumental in the success of the new dental service, she has also maintained staffing numbers which is a particular challenge in rural areas, liaising with internal and external service providers, and promoting community dental care.

Her achievements include:
» Maintaining public dental waitlists well below the state targets with a general dental waiting period of three weeks
» DHSV Infection Control Audit of 99.8 per cent and the first clinic to receive above 99 per cent
» Supported the Engaging Communities in Oral Health (ECOH) Program including developing and managing the school toothbrush pilot program and addressing the challenge of infection control management of toothbrushes in the primary school.

Gemma Kennedy
cohealth

Gemma Kennedy has held senior roles in the Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists’ Association including Victorian President and national roles.

In her role at cohealth, Gemma has merged the two oral health services of Western Region Health Centre and Douutta Galla Community Health Centre. She has established a management team designed to grow and support staff, to ensure locally responsive services and accountability. She has embedded a culture of learning, safety and quality with practice lead positions for dentistry, oral health therapy and infection control.

Gemma has worked to improve the oral health of marginalised people who often do not have access mainstream services. She has worked extensively with Aboriginal communities across Australia and has brought to cohealth this ethos which has shaped the way the oral health team operates.
2017 Smile of the Year

Vasili Kanidiadis

Vasili is the TV host of the popular Vasili’s Garden on 7TWO. His emphasis on growing his own fruit and veggies is a great example of a healthy lifestyle that has a positive outcome on oral health. We look forward to working with him to promote oral health in the coming year.

Vasili has said being DHSV’s Smile of the Year is an excellent opportunity to spread the message that diet plays an important role in oral health.

“They say that most diseases start in the mouth. If you’re not looking at what goes into your mouth, then the problems are starting from your teeth, right through your body.

“By eating healthy you remove a lot of processed sugar from your diet, because just about every packaged food product is loaded with it in one form or another.”

Read about Vasili in the 2016 Oral Health for Better Health magazine, page 4