A message from

Deborah Cole
CEO, Dental Health Services Victoria

Happy new year and wishing everyone a great start to 2017.

At the end of last year, we received good news from the Federal Government that the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) would be continued, ensuring that children will have access to public dental care.

A statement was released by the Department of Health on 15 December 2016, and here are the main points:

**National Partnership Agreement (NPA)**
- the Australian Government will continue to fund public dental services to adults through a NPA of $320 million (nationally) over this year and the next two years
- the $2.1 billion Child and Adult Public Dental Scheme will not proceed.

**Child Dental Benefits Schedule**
- maximum benefit available to eligible children under CDBS will be reduced from $1,000 to $700 over two years
- children who began a two-year cap period in 2016 will continue to have access to benefits up to $1,000 for that two-year period, provided they remain eligible in 2017.

The full details of the NPA share for Victoria are currently unavailable, and we understand the challenges this presents for agencies when trying to plan future services and staffing profiles. DHSV will provide more information as soon as possible.

**DHSV AGM**
We had a wonderful evening at the 2016 AGM and Public Oral Health Awards in November 2016. Thanks to our participants for making it a great one. We got to catch up with many of our colleagues from around the state and also met our special guest, Vasili Kanidiadis, 2017 DHSV Smile of the Year. See pages 2 to 3 for event highlights and profiles of the winners.

We also took an important step forward in our efforts to make DHSV a great place to work. Dental professions in Victoria came together and pledged to stamp out bullying, harrassment and inappropriate behaviour in the workplace through a joint position statement on the issue. I’m proud of the commitment that our partners are taking to eradicate unacceptable behaviour in the sector. Read more on page 4.

Do you have news to share?
wordofmouth@dhsv.org.au
DHSV celebrated the best of 2016 at its AGM and Public Oral Health Awards on 24 November. Our guest of honour was 2017 Smile of the Year, celebrity gardener Vasili Kanidiadis.

Vasili is the TV host of 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.

95 DHSV staff members received their staff service awards in 2016. Here are our colleagues who picked up their award at the AGM.

DHSV Board Member and Community Advisory Committee Chair, Barbara Hingston launched the 2016 Quality Account. Read it here: www.dhsv.org.au/qualityaccount

Some of our dedicated colleagues in the dental sector were also recognised at the Public Oral Health Awards. See next page for details.

Dr Shalika Hegde (5 years)
Adina Helibrunn (5 years)
Dr Zaklina Stojanovic (10 years)
Dr Martin Whelan (30 years)
Dr Deborah Cole (5 years)
We have a vulnerable group of residents in the Richmond community in much need of dental care. My goal is to use my experience and skills to improve the oral health of the community, reduce inequity and change the dental care model to be more outcome-focused and client-centred. In this way I can make sure we can provide the most appropriate care to as many people as we can, especially to those Richmond residents who are in most need.

Dr Martin Hall, North Richmond Community Health

Winning this award has been an honour; it makes us more passionate to make a difference to our community and inspires us to look at ways to keep improving our service.

None of this can ever be achieved without wonderful dedicated staff who are here to improve oral health outcomes for those in need. I am proud to work with the most amazing team.

Jacqui Nolan, Ballarat Health Dental Manager

In an environment where the oral health of children is getting poorer, we looked at the barriers young families experience in accessing timely dental care. Our Keeping Kids Smiling program reached out to the hidden pockets of high-risk populations so that we could provide early intervention. The amazing results achieved are a credit to the team. They are energetic, enthusiastic and passionate, and they love their work.

Dr Felicia Valianatos, General Manager Medical and Oral Wellbeing at Link Health and Community

It feels amazing. I enjoy being involved in Smiles4Miles and I have loved every minute of it.

Diana Brown, Smiles 4 Miles Coordinator at EACH Social and Community Health

Read the bios of our winners and finalists here

http://tinyurl.com/h3ejosu
Dental profession says no to workplace violence, bullying and inappropriate behaviour

In an Australian first for the health sector, dental professions have signed a joint position statement against bullying, harassment and inappropriate behaviour.

It is the first time any group of health professionals have come together to say no to inappropriate workplace cultures.

The signing was witnessed and endorsed by the Victorian Health Minister, the Hon. Jill Hennessy MP.

DHSV CEO Dr Deborah Cole said the statement is an important first step towards transforming the dental profession into an even better place to work.

“It is important that staff across the state in oral health environments feel empowered and encouraged to make each day better than the day before,” said Deb.

“As public health workers, we have a responsibility to provide a safe and high quality environment for staff and patients.

“I congratulate all the signatories on their commitment and dedication in making a giant leap in stamping out this behaviour for the protection of our staff and our industry as a whole.

“Today we say no more. Not on our watch. Not in our profession.”

DHSV staff attended the Respectful Workplace Learning Day the following day. See page 7 for more.

The following organisations have signed the pledge:

» DHSV
» The University of Melbourne
» La Trobe University
» RMIT University
» Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch
» Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists’ Association Inc.
» Australian Dental Prosthetists Association
» Dental Hygienists Association of Australia
» Australian Dental Council

Joint Position Statement
Against Bullying, Harassment and Inappropriate Behaviour in the Oral Health Sector

The Dental profession is committed to uphold the rights of all to have an inclusive, safe and respectful workplace;
We will not be silent or complicit when faced with controlling, abusive and violent behaviours;
We will empower those in our profession to call to account those behaviours that put others at risk;
We will lead by building awareness and understanding whilst fostering a culture of wellbeing;
We will move forward by working together to remove bullying and harassment from the dental profession.

www.dhsv.org.au
Celebrating healthy teeth with Smiles 4 Miles

Ada Mary A’Beckett Children’s Centre has become the first Port Phillip early childhood service to receive a Smiles 4 Miles award, presented by DHSV to recognise the centre’s passion for improving the oral health of children and families in their community.

By achieving their Smiles 4 Miles award, Ada Mary has completed the seven criteria in Smiles 4 Miles and provided initiatives that encourage healthy eating and good oral health for children and families now and in the future.

Centre Manager at Ada Mary, Maree Leslie, said that the children have enjoyed learning about great oral health through activities such as making healthy food plates, displays of the amount of sugar found in common drinks and a visit from the Inner South dental clinic.

“It’s great to see our kids going home to teach their parents about brushing well and eating less sugary foods,” Mrs Leslie said.

“Smiles 4 Miles has benefitted not just our children, but also their families and educators in learning about good oral health.”

DHSV CEO, Dr Deborah Cole said that Smiles 4 Miles has helped thousands of young children develop great oral health habits now and into the future.

“Tooth decay is largely preventable and Smiles 4 Miles is doing a brilliant job in helping our young Victorians maintain healthy teeth through the simple key messages of Drink well, Eat well and Clean well,” Deb said.
‘Caring for your teeth while pregnant’: a new fact sheet for Aboriginal women

Collaboration between DHSV and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) has resulted in the production of a culturally appropriate oral health resource for pregnant Aboriginal women.

The Midwives and Aboriginal Health Workers from the Koori Maternity Service (KMS) across the state provided valuable ideas and insights about what the resource should include and reviewed drafts as they were developed.

The KMS Team Leader, Simone Andy and Koori Maternity Strategy Project Officer, Shakara Montalto were crucial in considering the final wording and layout, with Shakara providing the amazing graphics.

Cisco Fisher, VACCHO’s Publication and Design Officer pulled everything together with his design skills.

A team of Aboriginal Liaison Officers from the Mercy Hospital For Women tested the fact sheet with women who attended the Nangnak Baban Murrup clinic.

The information contained in the fact sheet will also be included in the next print of the KMS Boorai Bundle booklet for mothers “All you need to know about a healthy pregnancy for a healthy boorai”.

View the fact sheet here
www.dhsv.org.au/professionals/midwives and click on “Resources for your clients”

www.dhsv.org.au
To support breast cancer retreats in Australia, RDHM staff are recycling cotton towels that are usually discarded after one use.

Little Blue Towels is an Australia-wide initiative which recycles towels that hospital staff use to dry sterilised hands. Instead of being discarded, the towels are cleaned at Laundry Mates, an enterprise wholly owned and operated by people with disability living in or near Echuca.

They are then packed for sale by Ability Works in Kew and Task Force in Echuca.

Day Surgery Nurse Unit Manager, Eileen Wilton said RDHM’s Day Surgery, Oral Surgery and Primary Care teams have been involved in the initiative.

“It’s a great cause as it not only helps women and families coping with breast cancer but also employs people with disabilities who wash and pack the towels giving them a sense of purpose.”

All proceeds of recycled cotton towels go to the OTIS Foundation, which provides a network of retreat accommodation at no cost to those living with the challenges of breast cancer.

www.littlebluetowels.com.au

To floss or not to floss

Recently, there has been a lot of media interest on whether flossing has any benefits to oral health.

The media flurry began after a journalist in the US discovered that there was little scientific evidence to support the efficacy of flossing.

Choice puts the matter to bed with an evidence-based article on flossing, referencing Australia’s National Oral Health Plan 2015-2024.

Read the full article on Choice http://tinyurl.com/gqj9m65

A respectful workplace

Staff gathered at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on 8 December for DHSV’s first Respectful Workplace Learning Day. The event was an opportunity for staff to learn the new DHSV values and above and below the line behaviours.

Videos of all presenters will soon be available online including:
» Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner, Kristen Hilton, keynote speaker who delivered a fantastic speech on human rights
» DHSV Board Chair Dr Zoe Wainer and CEO Dr Deborah Cole spoke about the importance of fostering good behaviour and shared their personal experiences of bullying and harassment at work.
» Peter Elliott on mindfulness
» Mary Ferguson from Davidson Trahaire who spoke about building workplace relationships
» Alon Januszewicz on preventing bullying, harassment and discrimination
» Michelle McQuaid on increasing resilience and grit.

www.dhsv.org.au
CPD Programs in 2017

Staying On Track: Dental Records, Coding and Titanium | 10 Feb 2017

This program will remind you of the critical steps in obtaining informed consent, taking a history and using item codes to ensure you are utilising the right codes. A refresher on upgraded functionality in Titanium will have you confident of meeting your requirements.

https://www.trybooking.com/237330

Public Oral Health Innovations Conference and Workshops
30 and 31 Mar 2017

The theme for the 2017 conference is Journey to Value. Workshops and meetings will be held on 30 March, followed by the conference to be held at the Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre on 31 March. More information to come.

www.dhsv.org.au

$3,344 raised for MOVEMBER

DHSV Mo Men have raised a whopping $3,344 for Movember - funds that will go towards projects and research into prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health and suicide prevention.

DHSV Mo Moments
» Morning teas at the Corporate Office and ICT raised an incredible $985. We auctioned off ‘coffee bandits’ - where each Mo Man would buy and deliver coffee for one week to their highest bidder.
» A meerkat that raised $159 (and probably sporting the longest Mo)
» DHSV casual dress day raised $156.75
» One Mo Man forgetting he was in a charity event and accidentally shaving it off halfway through.

Donate to the Mo Men here
https://au.movember.com/donate and search ‘DHSV’
Agency news and updates

On the road with the 2016-17 regional forums

The first two of four DHSV regional forums kicked off in November 2016 in the Barwon South West / Grampians and Gippsland regions.

Some key topics being addressed across the forums are

» the roadmap to the future of public dental care, including an update on the current state of oral health in Australia and future steps based on new models of care and the DHSV Strategic Plan
» evidence in the data and increasing high and reducing low value services
» child safe standards
» national Standards version 2
» transitioning to AS/NZS 4187:2014 and
» patient centred care through teledentistry.

Agency staff also had the opportunity to showcase their innovative ideas with other agencies, with presentations on outreach programs for young parents, homeless youth and expectant mums, screening diabetes in the community setting, and the maternal and child health program.

DHIV CEO Dr Deborah Cole addresses the Barwon South West/Grampians regional forum

Upcoming DHSV regional forums

Hume/Loddon Regional Forum
Tuesday 7 February 2017

Central Metropolitan Region Forum
Wednesday 22 February 2017

For more information, contact
art@dhsv.org.au

Update to vouchers

A small modification will shortly be added to the three voucher templates on Titanium:

» Victorian Denture Scheme
» Victorian General Dental Scheme
» Victorian Emergency Dental Scheme

Practitioners are now required to record their Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) registration number on all returned vouchers.

This detail will assist agencies with checking current registration statuses on the AHPRA Register of Practitioners, especially where registered names may not be the same as practicing names.

These details should be recorded in the Qualifications field in Titanium; the Qualifications field will be renamed in future Titanium rebuilds. If agencies still need to record qualifications, these may be added to the Prof. Title field.
Bairnsdale Regional Health Service: Closing the Gap van

Closing the Gap (CTG) mobile van is a dental outreach service started by Bairnsdale Regional Health Service (BRHS) in September 2016 to provide better access to dental services for Aboriginal communities across East Gippsland.

The project, which through the use of mobile van and portable modern dental equipment, aims to go a long way in improving access to dental services, improving oral health and emphasising preventive dental care.

BRHS is currently partnering with Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association (LEAHA) and visiting four days each month. To date the team has seen about 100 people.

The CTG van project has received a great response from the Aboriginal community. DHSV looks forward to extending its services to more regions, through collaborating with other Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations in the near future.

New cohealth dental clinic

Footscray MP Marsha Thompson, cohealth Chair Kay Rundle, Victorian Health Minister The Hon. Jill Hennessy MP, cohealth Chief Executive Lyn Morgain and Deputy Chief Executive Nicole Bartholomeusz. Photo by Star Weekly

comhealth has officially opened its new four floor health centre on 78 Paisley Street.

The health centre includes a 12 chair dental clinic and medical and pathology services, along with refugee health clinics, podiatry, counselling and physiotherapy.

The new centre received a kick-start in 2013 via a $9.7 million state government funding promise.