

20 July 2011

Mr Shane Austin
Leader – Community Strategy
GPO Box 1851
Melbourne Vic 3001

Dear Shane

The National Dental Foundation Victoria provides free basic dental treatment to disadvantaged people genuinely in need of dental care.

Volunteer practice owner dentists and support staff donate their premises, equipment materials and time and skills to provide treatment at no cost to patients selected by relief agencies and established charities working with Street Kids, Homeless people, women and children in refuge and increasingly financially disadvantaged families. The free dental service is delivered on a designated NDF Dental Rescue Day for the community where the volunteering dental practice is located.

Because of the 2010 financial support of the LMCF the NDF has been able to treat patients referred by the following charities: Anglicare, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Berry Street, Bethlehem Community Inc, CrossRoads Homeless Youth Program, Church of All Nations, Family Access Network, Homeground Services and Odyssey House all of whom referred and escorted clients to volunteered practices.

The response from all charities that participated in the program has been very positive, and all charities are enthusiastic at the prospect of referring increasing numbers of clients in the future as the NDF expands its volunteer dentist base in Victoria.

Our 2010 Dental Rescue Days provided referred patients with the following services: - an initial Dental Examination to diagnose their urgent needs, followed by the immediate and necessary basic dental treatment they required. The most performed procedures on the Dental Rescue Days were Fissure Sealants, Restorative Fillings, Extractions and Dental Cleans.

Currently In 2011 we will deliver ten Dental Rescue Days. For the period between July, August and November the NDF has organised seven Dental Rescue Days. We predict that within this five month period a minimum of 80 plus appointments will be secured to those in need with approx \$200 - \$500 worth of treatment being performed per client.

During 2011 the NDF has been working with the Salvation Army, Hanover Welfare Services, Windermere, Open Family Australia, SCAAB, DVAAB, Prahran Mission, Access Care, Mission Australia, Lighthouse Foundation, Connections, Homeground, Brotherhood of St Laurence and Anglicare Victoria to identify the needs of their clients. This has resulted in a focused drive to seek more volunteer dentists, dental hygienist, dental therapist and dental assistants to participate in our Dental Rescue Days to try to meet the increasing requests from charities.

The following is a list of charities that we have had contact with during the current year but as yet been able to service. Westernport Conference, Menzies Inc, Peninsula Youth and Family Services, Brotherhood of St Laurence – Frankston, Hastings Neighbourhood Renewal, Hastings Community Hub, Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services Hastings and Rosebud, Womens Refuge, Anglicare Rosebud and Frankston, St Mathews Anglican Church, Family Life, Good Shep - St Kilda, Moira, Gordon Care, Winermere, Outreach Father Bob Foundation, Family Life ,Wesley Youth Services – Southern Region: Salvation Army –Berwick-Community and Family Support: Salvation Army – Doveton-Community and Family Support: Unity Care - St Kilda, Community Bayside care and 20th man fund.

With the ongoing financial support of the LMCF the National Dental Foundation will continue to strive to deliver additional Dental Rescue Days in Victoria to meet the requests for assistance from the large volume of Charities seeking our assistance.

Without the funding for our Part Time State Coordinator the National Dental Foundation would be forced to operate on a much reduced scale. We sincerely appreciate the assistance and support provided by the Lord Mayors Charity Foundation

Yours sincerely

Mervin Saultry
Founder/Director
National Dental Foundation