



NATIONAL DENTAL FOUNDATION - SA

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The National Dental Foundation SA recently held its first Dental Rescue Day on Saturday 28th February, 2009.

Patients were sourced from 2 charities, The Salvation Army and Uniting Care Wesley. These organizations provided patients from their mental health, youth, aged care and methadone programs. A variety of treatment was undertaken for these people, ranging from examinations, x-rays and oral health instruction through to completed endodontic treatment, the extraction of wisdom teeth and the provision of new dentures. Some of these patients have been "adopted" by the practices involved and will receive all necessary treatment.

Our first Dental Rescue Day involved 4 Dental practices across the Adelaide metro area. McIntyre Dental Clinic, West Lakes Dental, Southern Dental Clinic and North Adelaide Dental Care all kindly provided their premises and dental materials to make this day the success it was. In addition we had other Dentists, Hygienists, Therapists and Dental Assistants donate their time and expertise to work in these practices. Members of the Australian Dental Industry Association and others kindly donated products for use on the day and for our patients to take away for home care.

A total of \$45,000 of pro bono treatment was done for 68 patients on the day. More importantly, pain was relieved, smiles restored, and confidence built for these members of our community who would otherwise find difficulty in accessing dental care.

The feedback received from the charities has been extremely positive, including the following from one of the Uniting Care Wesley coordinators:

"I just want to express my gratitude to you for initiating the Dental Rescue that occurred on the weekend. It was my pleasure to be involved in such a great concept. To see the positive effect that it had for the clients involved was wonderful. This is particularly true for one of the young mums who attend Challenge, Natasha. She has quite poor dental hygiene which has resulted in severe decay to several of her front teeth. She had several fillings on the day and has been asked to come back in several weeks so that the surgery can make a dental plate to replace her decayed teeth. The significance of this gesture is life changing and a fitting reward for Natasha who takes a disability and her life circumstances positively and works hard to improve herself with very minimal support from other services. So again thank you for being involved in this wonderful event and for giving me the opportunity to be involved also"

The NDF plan is to hold 2 dental rescue days in August 09 to coincide with Oral Health Month. Should you or your dental workplace and colleagues wish to be involved in a

Dental Rescue Day please contact our coordinator, Mrs. Helene Newble at ndfsa@adam.com.au or on 0430 417 006.

We have been gratified by the response and thank those in the dental community who have volunteered to help make this the success it is.

Thanks again,

Henry Gilkes

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