



National Dental Foundation WA

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Homeless Connection Treatment Summary December 1, 2009

On Wednesday 25th November 2009, the National Dental Foundation of WA participated in this event in the City of Perth.

As one of the many volunteer service providers operating on this day the National Dental Foundation WA, where able to provide treatment to many people in need of Dental Care. Thanks to the loan of a Dental Van from the Government Dental Services we where able to perform treatment on the actual day on site in the City Centre.

A great band of volunteers from volunteering Australia directed people to the areas and the location of the Dental Team.

The volunteer dental team consisting of: Two dentists, an Oral Surgeon and three Dental Nurses, where kept busy all day and where able to provide some form of treatment to at least 55 people.

All of these people presented with Dental problems that are left un-treated due to varying reasons.

As is often the case, many if not all of them, are living with infections and pain caused through lack of Dental treatment.

Some of these patients presented with a high degree/amount of infection that could have been resolved with treatment such as removing a tooth.

However they do not have access to funds or services for this treatment.

In some cases these patients can end up in the Emergency Departments of the public hospitals and require extended hospitalization to clear up these infections.

Following on from this day, where an estimated \$7500 worth of treatment was provided and some 44 teeth where removed, patients seen where offered further treatment that could not be completed on the day at the National Dental Foundations Dental Rescue Day on the following Saturday. Private Dental clinics open their premises for use by the Foundation to provide no cost treatment on these days.

As well as people referred by other support agencies for this day, 27 people from the Homeless Connect Day, where offered appointments at a private clinic on the Saturday.

Thanks to the generous support of Cab Charge who donated vouchers to help patients get to the clinic and Trans Perth who provided vouchers for travel.

Of those who attended on this Dental Rescue day, some 21 people received further treatment with an estimated value of \$6480.00. Some of them still require further treatment however, they should all have greatly improved Dental conditions and less infection caused through their teeth.