

The International Federation of Dental Hygienists Country Report 28 June 2019

The Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists Association is pleased to report on the key activities of the association for 2018 and 2019.

Reported by Nicole Stormon, ADOHTA Inc. Secretary.

Advocacy

Scope of Practice review

The Dental Board of Australia in late 2018 gave their final Scope of Practice Standard recommendation to the COAG Health Council. The proposed changes are a positive step to having policies reflect current practice for oral health practitioners. Since the DBA's announcement, ADOHTA has contacted all State and Territory Health Minister's and has meetings with Health Ministers or Health Minister Advisors across the country. The Dental Board of Australia's proposed Scope of Practice standards have been referred to the Australian Commission of Safety. It is expected, but not known, that COAG Health Council will meet in July 2019 to discuss ACSQH's comments and it is hoped that a decision on the standards is made then.



The Use of Fluorides in Australia workshop

7 & 8th February 2019

The purpose of the workshop was to review the use of fluoride guidelines in Australia. Moderated discussions were held where the stakeholders in the audience were able to discuss the current evidence in relation to the guidelines. Many comparisons were made to the updated New Zealand guidelines. A final discussion was had where each guideline was reviewed. Many administrative changes were proposed. ADOHTA was well represented at this important event and members will be provided an update when the new guidelines are released.



Australia and New Zealand relationships

2 – 5th May 2019

ADOHTA National Vice President Ashlea Furlan (TAS) & National Treasurer William Carlson-Jones (SA) recently attended the NZDOHTA/NZDHA 'Waves of Change' 2019 Conference in Auckland, New Zealand. Well in excess of 200 delegates were in attendance at the conference held at the stunning Cordis Hotel.



Asia pacific relationships

Connections have been blooming with Asia Pacific associations meeting.

1. Association for Oral Health Therapists, Singapore
2. Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists' Association (ADOHTA)
3. Indonesian Dental Therapists Association
4. Malaysian Dental Therapists Association
5. New Zealand Dental and Oral Health Therapists Association (NZDOHTA)



Ongoing representation

ADOHTA has continued their ongoing relationships by meeting with various stakeholders over the last year:

- The Dental Hygienists Association Australia
- The Australian Dental Council
- The Australian Dental Association
- The Oral Health policy reference group
- The National Oral Health Alliance
- The Dental Board of Australia
- The Public Health Association Australia
- Private Healthcare Australia
- Oral health universities across Australia



ADOHTA conferences

ADOHTA Queensland Conference

29 & 30th March 2019

Held at the Brisbane at the Hotel Grand Chancellor. Welcoming an array of informative, empowering and exceptionally engaging keynote speakers, the conference attracted over 150 delegates hungry and eager to devour the knowledge soon to be served over two full conference days.



ADOHTA 5th International Conference Hobart

27 – 29th September 2018

The International conference saw over 200 delegates exploring the possibilities over the 3 days including 2 fantastic pre-conference sessions and 2 full conference days.



Oral Health Practitioners of the Year

Held at the ADOHTA Queensland Conference were the Inaugural Oral Health Practitioner of the Year Awards detailed 5 different categories in which oral health practitioners who exemplify commitment to oral health care. The winners were:

- Volunteer: Shauna McNaughton NSW
- Health Promoter: Julie Barker QLD
- Educator or Researcher: Denise Higgins NSW
- Leader and Profession Advocate: Judith Ottaway WA
- Clinical Leader: Denise Higgins NSW
- Overall oral health practitioner: Denise Higgins NSW



Photo Left: Denise Higgins, Janet Wallace, Jenny Morgan Colgate

Photo Above: Ashlea Furlan ADOHTA, Jill Taylor One Dental, Denise Higgins, Julie Barker, Jude Ottaway, Jenny Morgan Colgate

Australia & New Zealand Journal of Dental and Oral Health Therapy

The ANZIDOHT is the official journal of Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapist Association (ADOHTA) and the New Zealand Dental and Oral Health Therapist Association (NZDOHTA) and is the product of a merge of the ADOHTA and NZDTA journals, both of which have been individually published for over 20 years. The ADOHTA is proud to continue to support the journal and its members have received the benefits of more than 2 editions a year.

<https://adohta.net.au/content/anzidoht-journal>



Country Report - LATVIA

Latvian Dental Hygienists Association unites nearly 300 members – qualified dental hygienists across Latvia. The main aims are to - promote dental hygiene profession by organizing further education seminars and conferences (CPD events), collaborate with similar professional organizations in Latvia and other countries, take responsibility of the qualification level for dental hygienists, by running certification and re-certification procedure in Latvia and to organise and support various oral health education, promotion and awarding events.

On 13th October, 2012 there was first Golden Tooth Brush nomination ceremony organised and nominations handed to the best dental hygienists across Latvia. It takes place every 5 years now. In december, 2018, LZHA began work on Distance learning course together with main organisers - EDHF and Pierre Fabre. It is planned to make the course available in autumn 2019 and it is already translated to latvian so every dental hygienist (member of LZHA) can have an access to it in native language.

LZHA organises 6 further education conferences every year and runs Board elections once every 4 years. Dates are available on LZHA Website – www.lzha.lv.

The main plan for LZHA Board members continues to be organising high quality further education training conferences for dental professionals in Latvia. That includes “3 rd European workshop” for European countries creating distance learning platform “EDHF Common Education Framework”, which is organised in cooperation with EDHF and Pierre Fabre.

Association has created new website and is working on both – latvian and english version, to become more accessible worldwide.

United Kingdom report from the British Society of Dental Hygiene & Therapy (BSDHT)

Current BSDHT membership: 2568
Total registered Dental Hygienists: 7346
Total registered Dental Therapists: 3387

On 6th July 2019, the BSDHT (formally British Dental Hygienist Association) celebrate the 70th Anniversary.

In November 2018, Julie Deverick became President, with Diane Rochford elected as President Elect. We also have a newly elected Honorary Treasurer, Miranda Steeples and Honorary Secretary Sarah Murray.

Exemptions - the ability to use certain prescription only drugs, such as local anaesthetics and fluoride. Past BSDHT President, Michaela O'Neill and Past President of the British Association of Dental Therapists, Fiona Sandom continue in their work on the exemptions project. Due to changes at a UK government level this is currently on hold until the political landscape is more settled and Brexit (UK leaving the European Union) is resolved.

Indemnity Policy

In the UK the continuing increase in annual fees for professional indemnity by some of the well-established organisations was a concern to members and the profession as a whole. It is widely accepted by the indemnity companies that claims against Dental Hygienists very low, in comparison to other dental professionals. To address these concerns BSDHT investigated the possibility of indemnity policies for members. In November 2016, the BSDHT indemnity was launched. This is an insurance-based, claims made cover that, can be tailored to the individuals need and requirements to cover all aspects of the Scope of Practice for both Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists. There are extra 'bolt-on's' to cover tooth whitening and facial aesthetics. This is still in its infancy and in April 2019 we had a change of broker due to changes in the original brokers structure.

Benevolent Fund

The proposal for a Benevolent fund was put to the membership at the AGM in November 2018, this was accepted and so annual membership fees will have an extra £1 added to the subscription fee. The money accrued will be ring fenced and following an application process, which has been put in place, appropriate financial assistance will be considered and awarded accordingly to the member(s). This is only applicable for full members of the Society.

First Smiles

First Smiles is now into it's 5th year and building momentum each year. This year, thanks to the continued kind support of Oral-B, volunteer Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists, 4135 toothbrushes have been given to children in 62 schools and 54 nurseries throughout the UK. The First Smiles campaign was also shorted listed in the Best Outreach or charity initiative for the Dental Awards this year in June 2019.



Oral Health Conference

The annual Oral Health Conference, will for the first time be held in Newport, South Wales in November 2019 at the newly built International Convention Centre. The BSDHT team are working with our conference organisers to make sure this year's conference builds on the success and great feedback from 2018. The theme, 'The Generation Gain; Challenges and Opportunities', reflects managing patients of all generations, with some well established and some newer speakers, presenting on a wide range of topics pertinent to Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists. Booking opened in April and everything is on track.

Own premises and administration team

In 2017, the BSDHT relocated to our own office space along with an administration team, who manage the day to day running of the Society. The office provides a base for the Society, a place for meetings, we hold Executive and Council meetings, along with hosting companies and other organisations. The administration team have helped to centralise the Regional Group operations that might have otherwise been carried out by Regional Group committees, most of who are volunteers in their committee roles. The whole operation has led to a much more cost-effective structure for the BSDHT.

Strategy

In April, 2019 the Executive Committee met to work on updating and developing a strategy for the next 5 years. There are lots of ideas and suggestions discussed at Council and Executive meeting, this gave us the opportunity to focus and plan. We looked at ways to increase membership numbers, allow for more engagement, mentoring, creating ambassadors to promote and offer support for members.

