

CEO's comments continued...

- Generous scheme rebates, combined with Government tax offsets as part of the post GFC stimulus package
- A very positive response from members, many of whom expressed appreciation for the chance to be seen as 'environmentally friendly' by their patients
- The ever present regulatory "threat" that trade waste certificates (fees) and inspections would be used if targets were not met (this remains a real issue of course, especially in other States).
- Patience.

## A national scheme?

Adjacent to the Congress, meetings were held between representatives of

the ADA, suppliers, waste industry, FDI and the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability about how Australia is going to meet its obligations under a legally binding international treaty on mercury which is due to come into effect in 2013. This is where the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will take us over the coming months. The need for caries reduction strategies, for the continuing availability of amalgam as a restorative material (especially for public dental care), and for responsible management of amalgam wastes, were all highlighted in the discussions.

Potentially there may be sufficient consensus about these matters that a National Dentists for Cleaner Water project will be established. If this does eventuate, it will be testimony to the exceptionally strong partnership which

was forged between all of the stakeholders in the ADAVB project.

## Thanks to you

Thanks to all those members who have installed amalgam separation equipment in their practices, and vindicated the faith placed in them by the Branch and the project funding agencies. If you have not yet done so, but would like to join this outstanding environmental initiative, it is not too late. Contact Ian Crawford on 8825 4600 on a Wednesday or Thursday and make sure you can provide documentation proving that you placed a written order for a compliant device before 30 June. Ian will stay with the project until 30 September to finalise rebate administration and wrap up final reports to the funding agencies.

## Paid Parental Leave scheme starts 1 July

From 1 July employees have to provide Parental Leave Pay – which is paid by the Federal Government - to eligible employees. The eligible employee:

- has a child born or adopted from 1 July 2011
- will have been your employee for 12 months or more prior to the expected date of birth or adoption
- will be your employee for their Paid Parental Leave period, and
- is an Australian-based employee, and
- is expected to receive eight weeks or more of Parental Leave Pay.

Employees who have been on the payroll for less than 12 months will have the payment made direct to them by the Family Assistance Office. The Paid Parental Leave scheme does not provide eligible employees with a new entitlement to leave.

The existing minimum entitlement to 12 months unpaid parental leave for long-term employees, in the National Employment Standards under the *Fair Work Act 2009*, is unchanged.

For more information, contact the Family Assistance Office phone 136150 or see details at <http://www.familyassist.gov.au/payments/family-assistance-payments/paid-parental-leave-scheme/>

## For ADAVB, social responsibility does matter

Not only did the story on the steps taken by ADAVB to implement the ISO 26000 social responsibility standard feature on the ISO online newsletter – it was also published in the March issue of ISO Focus magazine. It was headed: *Size doesn't matter – Australian dentists get their teeth into ISO 26000.*

## Health care commission to start next year

The Senate has passed legislation to establish a permanent Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. As a permanent, independent body, the Commission will operate from 1 July next year.

The legislation was passed following amendments by the Greens. Senator Rachel Siewart, the Greens Health spokesperson, said the amendments would improve patient confidentiality thereby ensuring fully informed consent is gained from patients before their information can be published or disseminated. She said that throughout the health reform process there had been too much emphasis on hospitals rather than focusing on prevention measures, primary health and community services to keep people well and out of the hospital system. Federal Minister for Health and Ageing Ms Roxon says that the Commission will be dedicated to monitoring safety and quality in health care.

## Introducing Meridian Lawyers

Guild Lawyers has a new name – Meridian Lawyers. Employing more than 30 lawyers, the company says the name change reflects its embodying qualities: excellence, vision and balance.

Coinciding with the name change is the appointment of three senior staff to the Melbourne office – Robert Minc, James Hand and Scott Ames. They were members of the insurance team at DLA Phillips Fox.

## Harvard academic to speak at Melbourne conference

The 51st IADR Australia and New Zealand Division meeting will be held 26 – 28 September at Melbourne University. Keynote speakers include Professor Floyd Dewhirst from the Forsyth Institute and Harvard Dental School. Prof. Dewhirst will

present two sessions - one keynote address on oral microbiome, and another session on new approaches to understanding polymicrobial disease. Non-IADR members are welcome to attend.

## eviDent research not for commercial use

Practitioners and academics undertaking research through eviDent Dental Practice Based Research Network do so with the aim of sharing their results with the dental profession and helping patients – not using it for commercial gain.

The network was set up specifically to encourage the practitioner/academic researcher relationship with a view to building research capacity to produce and use evidence by facilitating and supporting those practices involved in research producing and disseminating evidence that can translate into practice and inform policy to achieve a successful and sustainable model.

The research conducted by eviDent leads directly to improved treatment outcomes for patients and encompasses projects that address the connection between oral and general health.

At no stage was it – nor will it be – envisaged that eviDent projects will result in commercial products and provide monetary gains for their researchers. For further information about eviDent, contact Ms Meaghan Quinn – [coordinator@evident.net.au](mailto:coordinator@evident.net.au)

## Seminar on Support Services Award

AMA Victoria will hold a free seminar on the Health Professionals and Support Services Award 2010 on 15 April from 10.00 am – 11.30 am at their office – 293 Royal Pde., Parkville. The Award will apply to most staff employed in dental practices. To register contact Amy McLennan - [amclennan@ama.com.au](mailto:amclennan@ama.com.au) or phone (02) 62705424.