

# News in brief

## ADA awards for Victorians

ADA Federal Council recently granted awards to several Victorians. Immediate Past President Dr Neil Hewson was granted Honorary Life Membership. Honorary Membership was granted to Melbourne Dental School head Professor Eric Reynolds, for a period of two years.

A/Prof. Michael McCullough is the recipient of an ADA Service Medallion and the ADA Award of Merit was made to Dentists for Cleaner Water project manager Mr Ian Crawford. Dr Wayne Ottaway, from Launceston, and Queensland academic Professor Laurence Walsh were also awarded ADA Service Medallions.

## Oral health tips for young children

Two PowerPoint presentations aimed at kindergarten children and parents/carers for 0-6 year-olds are can be downloaded from the ADAVB website. They have been produced by the Oral Health Education Committee as a resource to help members who are asked to give talks at a kindergarten or primary school.

They are stored at myADAVB > Document exchange > ADAVB Oral health education.

## Group reports

The meetings conducted by ADAVB's Groups are attended by Branch Councillors who report to Council. Issues raised at meetings late last year included:

- Registration and accreditation
  - o Mandatory reporting
  - o Practice accreditation – a lot of work for small practices
  - o Wage demands by hygienists
  - o Registration – the cost
- CPD and infection control being removed as a compulsory subject for CPD studies
- Concern about health funds, especially takeover activity – need for research.

## Overwhelming help for eViDent study

Such has been the support of members volunteering to help the eViDent project looking at implant complications in private practice that there are more than enough practitioners. The study cannot accept any more practitioners and eViDent thanks members for being so willing to help.

## Dentist heads DHSV

Dr Deborah Cole, has been appointed to the position of Chief Executive Officer of Dental Health Services Victoria. She is a former Director of The Royal Dental Hospital and a Regional Director with the South Australian Dental Service and, until recently, was a consultant with Health Workforce Australia.

Dr Cole was a Director of the Dental Practice Board of Victoria.

## ABS announces changes to the CPI

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has announced the outcome from a comprehensive review of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) – the first major review of the index in more than a decade.

### Key outcomes from the review include:

- Endorsement of the principal purpose of the CPI as a general measure of household inflation. The current conceptual approach to measuring the CPI will be retained.
- The ABS acknowledges that the CPI is used for many purposes, so the current suite of living cost indexes will continue. Where there is a clearly demonstrated need, and funding provided, other complementary quarterly price indexes will be produced for particular population sub-groups.
- From the September quarter this year, the indirectly measured component of financial services will be removed from the headline CPI until such time that methods and data sources are sufficiently robust for reintroduction to the CPI. A new analytical series, comprising the All groups CPI inclusive of indirectly measured financial services, will be published.
- The publication *Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities (cat. no. 6403.0.55.001)* will be discontinued after the June quarter issue.

## Dentists feature in health survey

The Menzies – Nous Australia Health Policy Survey 2010 has just been released, providing valuable insights into the views held by Australians about their own health, the Australian health system and affordability of health and aged care services. The survey also provides an assessment of consumer satisfaction when they interact with health and aged care services and their confidence about future encounters.

The survey found that:

- People under financial pressure tended to skip tests, medication and dental treatment
- Pharmacists and the services they provided were ranked highest while Australians were least satisfied with dentists and services offered by public hospitals
- 63% (55% in 2008) of respondents had been to a dentist this year
- 59% of school children up to year 10 had

been to a dentist this year as had 73% of university students.

The survey is available at <http://www.menzieshealthpolicy.edu.au/index.php>

The first survey was conducted in 2008. The Menzies Centre for Health Policy is a collaborative centre between The Australian National University and The University of Sydney.

## Members research out to outback community

A little over a year ago ADAVB members and their colleagues interstate got behind an appeal from the Sisters of Mercy for dental assistance in the outback WA.

Sister Cathy Solaro has advised of "how fantastic" the result was:

- Generous responses from Dr Dennis Gregory, of the Dental Rescue Team (National Dental Foundation, WA) and Jan Owen and Dr John Owen of the Kimberley Dental Team
- A dental chair donated by Dr David Chua, of Box Hill North
- A suction unit and autoclave from Lara Dental Clinic.

"The marvelous result is that lots of adults with long standing dental problems have been treated and children have had reviews and been given kits to help look after their teeth," she recently said in a letter to the Branch.

Members who may be able to provide further help to the Gibb River community can contact Sister Solaro – phone (03) 9499 1577, email [csolano@melbmercy.org.au](mailto:csolano@melbmercy.org.au)

## ADAVB Tennis Day – Friday 18 March 2011

The 2011 ADAVB Tennis Day will be held at the former home of the Australian Open and Davis Cup, Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club on Friday 18 March. This time we've moved to the later starting time of 1.00pm, and instead of the usual BBQ, players will enjoy a cocktail party in our own private function room from 4.00pm. For more information or to register your interest, contact Nancy Mai at the Branch - phone 8825 4600 or [nancy.mai@adavb.org](mailto:nancy.mai@adavb.org) and refer to: [www.adavb.net](http://www.adavb.net) for the registration form and return by Friday 4 March.

## Earth Hour

Earth Hour - the world's largest global climate change initiative – will occur on 27 March at 8.30-pm when people and businesses around the world will turn off their lights. This is a call to stand up, to take responsibility, to get involved and lead the global journey to a sustainable future. For more information, go to [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)