

# SHAPING A PROFESSION

50 YEARS OF DENTAL THERAPISTS



HENRY FORMAN ATKINSON DENTAL MUSEUM, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



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EDITED BY  
JACQUELINE HEALY

HENRY FORMAN ATKINSON DENTAL MUSEUM  
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

*Shaping a profession: 50 years of dental therapists* celebrates the 50th anniversary of dental therapists in Victoria. Dental therapists were established in Australia in 1965 and in Victoria in 1972. The Victorian legislation was later amended to enable dental hygienists. The introduction of dental therapists transformed preventative dental care.

This publication and exhibition showcase the development of the role of the dental therapist through education, legislation and public health initiatives.

Front cover: Cat. 49 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995), **Second-year dental therapy students Maureen Hahn and Christine Hill with dental assistant**, 1977, photograph. HFA4322, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

Back cover: **Kaye Jacob (née Davidson) and Andrea Riccioni (née Butters) running 'Brush In' as part of the School Dental Service at Orbost North Primary School**, 1983.

Inside front cover: Cat. 75 Frank Pietras Photography; Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995), **Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy)**, 1976–77, 1977, photograph. HFA4386, gift of Julie Satur, 2023, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

First class to graduate from the Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy).

Inside back cover: **Graduating class, Bachelor of Oral Health, Melbourne Dental School, University of Melbourne, at the Redmond Barry building**, 2016.



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henryformanatkinsondentalmuseum.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au

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This catalogue, produced to support the exhibition *Shaping a profession: 50 years of dental therapists*, was generously supported by the Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists' Association. It also received funding from the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, as part of its continuing support for preserving and sharing the collections of its three museums (the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum, the Medical History Museum, and the Harry Brookes Allen Museum of Anatomy and Pathology) for the benefit of the community and the generations of University of Melbourne students and alumni, many of whom contribute their own cultural treasures to the collections. Thanks are extended to the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum Management Committee, led by Professor Alastair Sloan; in particular, to Professor Julie Satur, who has led this project, supported by Honorary Curator Professor Mike Morgan and Registrar, Faculty Museums Tess Scott, who worked with students from the University of Melbourne Cultural Collections Program.

*Shaping a profession: 50 years of dental therapists*, curated by Dr Jacqueline Healy, was held at the Medical History Museum, University of Melbourne, from 11 March to 17 June 2024. It was the last exhibition held at the Medical History Museum in the Brownless Biomedical Library before its relocation to 233 Bouverie Street, Carlton, later in 2024.



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## FOREWORD

The University of Melbourne's Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences has three museums: the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum, the Medical History Museum, and the Harry Brookes Allen Museum of Anatomy and Pathology. All contribute greatly to the life of the faculty through teaching, research and engagement with students, alumni and the broader community.

Our dental museum is considered to hold the oldest and most comprehensive dental collection in Australia. It is rich with objects, artefacts, equipment, books and photographs, many relating to the teaching of dentistry and associated courses in the faculty and its predecessor schools. The museum connects the University of Melbourne to national and international dental associations, and celebrates the legacy of practitioners, educators and researchers across generations.

The exhibition and publication, *Shaping a profession: 50 years of dental therapists*, are the result of a close working relationship with the Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists' Association, through its members and their shared histories. As part of this project, we have added to the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum the archive material from the Victorian Dental and Oral Health Therapist Association. This documents the major legislative and policy changes in Victoria that enabled the practice of dental therapists.

It is important to note that the first woman promoted to professor in the Melbourne Dental School was Julie Satur, a dental therapist and a leading advocate for this important group of professionals to be accepted, practising first in the school dental service and then in the private sector. This publication tells the founding story of a profession and its extensive reach in dental care. It brings together prominent members of the dental therapist community of practitioners and dentists—many former students at the University of Melbourne—and historians. I thank all authors for their contributions.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution our alumni make to the education of students and to the provision of dental care. I also sincerely thank our many benefactors for supporting the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum, which documents and celebrates the rich legacy of dental education at the University of Melbourne.

### Professor Jane Gunn

Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Cat. 279 Engage Media (est. 2005), *Bite Magazine*, 2022, paper. HFA4414, gift of Julie Satur, 2023, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

Professor Julie Satur features on the cover, with an article by John Burfitt on the new curriculum for dental schools, created by Julie Satur, focusing on the needs of Indigenous Australians.



## PREFACE

*Shaping a profession: 50 years of dental therapists* marks the 50th anniversary of dental therapy in Victoria. Dental therapists were first introduced in Australia in 1965, but legislation enabling the creation of dental therapists in Victoria was enacted in 1972, with a later amendment providing for dental hygienists. Dental therapists have transformed preventive dental care.

Discussions concerning the creation of ‘allied professionals’ to assist dentists emerged as early as the 1920s, but it took a further 50 years before a dental therapy course was established in Victoria. This followed initiatives in New Zealand, followed by the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries. This first course in Victoria was run by the Department of Health. It was not until the 1990s that the University of Melbourne established the first Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), which commenced in 1995, nearly 30 years ago.

The exhibition includes material from the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum, the Victorian Dental and Oral Health Therapist Association archive and private collections. Together with this catalogue, it highlights the stages and key individuals in the founding and development of the profession in Victoria. Exhibition items include teaching objects from the course, as well as evidence of the strict uniform requirements. It examines the social and cultural barriers faced by the students and graduates and highlights the impact of the profession on the delivery of dental services, particularly on preventive health care. The publication brings together major research by Professor Julie Satur, alongside contributions from past and current practitioners.

At the inception of dental therapist training in the 1970s only single young women were allowed to apply. Many things have changed in the last 50 years, and the student cohort today reflects the rich cultural diversity of our community.

The Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum involves students, alumni and the general public in its activities at the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne. Another important part of its program is a series of exhibitions in the Medical History Museum in the Brownless Biomedical Library, where *Shaping a profession: 50 years of dental therapists* is being shown. I hope visitors will be intrigued and inspired by the achievements of the dental therapists and their advocates in transforming preventative health care.

**Professor Alastair J Sloan**

Head of Melbourne Dental School

Hayley Downey, Bachelor of Oral Health, with patient Joh Lazaro, 2014.



We are proud to present this special edition of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Dental and Oral Health Therapy celebrating 50 years of Dental Therapy in Australia. This Special Conference Edition presents the abstracts from the ADOHTA International Conference held in Melbourne in September 2015. This edition celebrates considerable development for our profession which began life in New Zealand in 1923, progressing across the Tasman to begin life in Australia in 1965 and transitioning to be incorporated into oral health therapy in the 1990s in Australia. The research presented in this special edition represents considerable development for our profession which began its days as a vocation taking its knowledge from dentistry; we have now moved into a space where we have researchers from within our profession developing the knowledge of our own discipline, asking questions, evaluating practice, testing innovative ideas and leading from within. We celebrate these achievements and the leaders in our profession who have emerged as researchers, educators and role models and congratulate them on their work and the contribution they make. We lead the world in these professions and it is with great pride that the ANZJDOHT publishes their work in this souvenir edition. We hope you enjoy it and all the experiences, networking and learning a conference such as this provides.

Dr Julie Satur, on behalf of the  
Editorial Board of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Dental and Oral Health Therapy (ANZJDOHT)



visit our websites: [www.adohta.net.au](http://www.adohta.net.au) and [www.nzora.org.nz](http://www.nzora.org.nz)

## ADOHTA MESSAGE

The Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists' Association (ADOHTA, formerly ADTA) was established to provide an avenue for practitioners from across the states and territories to harness opportunities, offer advice and support to each other and advocate for the profession and for oral health in the community. It has played a critical collegial, leadership and advocacy role, bringing expertise to the development of education, regulation, policy and the profession in Australia and internationally.

It is important to acknowledge the hard-won path of expanding the role of dental and oral health therapists in dental health services. This anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on Victoria's contribution to changing the perception and role of dental therapists, and to acknowledge the processes and people involved in achieving some remarkable outcomes.

ADOHTA is delighted to support this major publication and exhibition. *Shaping a profession: 50 years of dental therapists* reveals the journey of dental therapy in Victoria and the steps involved in developing the profession. It traces the beginnings of training in New Zealand through to the establishment of tertiary-level courses and oral health therapy. The catalogue includes the voices of many practitioners instrumental in establishing the profession's standards and expanding its impact and influence; it shares their personal and professional perspectives. It encompasses dental-health research and education in Victoria and its contribution to building a strong professional association. It also explores the significant role of public dental health and prevention, and the influence of dental therapists in health education, such as the introduction of school programs in the 1970s, which continue today. These services are now taken for granted, but it is important to learn from the past and recall the advocacy and persistence required to achieve improvements in oral health care, which may assist in meeting challenges in the future.

*Shaping a profession: 50 years of dental therapists*, both the exhibition and catalogue, comprise valuable work that highlights the strong and ongoing partnership between ADOHTA and the University of Melbourne Dental School.

### W Carlson-Jones

President, Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists' Association

Cat. 278 *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Dental and Oral Health Therapy*, special edition, Sept. 2015, paper. HFA4709, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

Special edition, with abstracts from the '50 Years of Dental Therapy in Australia' conference.

AUSTRALIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

(Victorian Branch)



Memorandum to  
The Australian Dental Association  
on the Problems Involved in  
Providing a National Dental  
. . . . Health Service . . . .

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Presented by the Sub-Committee  
appointed by the Australian Dental  
Association (Victorian Branch.)

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July, 1944

193 Spring St.,  
Melbourne, C.I

## INTRODUCTION

There is a seemingly innocuous document held in the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum titled *Memorandum to the Australian Dental Association on the Problems Involved in Providing a National Dental Health Service* (1944). It examines the prospect of expanding the dental service to include associated health professionals in more independent roles. Members of the subcommittee responsible for preparing the memorandum included Professor Amies, Dean of the School of Dental Science. It was clear that the development of dental personnel to expand services was not supported. On page 15, the report stated:

42. It has been suggested from various quarters that dental personnel could be increased by the creation of rights to practise on the public in limited fields by certain groups of people. These groups can be mainly classified under two headings:
  - a) The creation of a body of women who would receive not academic but short-term clinical training to cope with the dental needs of children, and would practise under the supervision of dentists in Government institutions.
  - b) The creation of rights for dental mechanics to deal directly with the public in providing for them their dental prosthetic requirements.
43. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the great majority of the dental profession in Victoria is opposed to the increase in dental personnel by either of the above two means ...

The consequences of this and subsequent reports were far reaching, with significant implications for dental care in Victoria. It would take more than 20 years before dental therapists were established in Australia (South Australia and Tasmania), in 1965, and a further seven years in Victoria, in 1972. It is also sobering to remember that the first dental therapists trained in Victoria were selected only from young female applicants, as foreshadowed by the 1944 report. This report heralds the issues faced through the remarkable journey of dental therapists in Victoria to establish their profession through advocacy and education.

*Shaping a profession: 50 years of dental therapists* celebrates and commemorates dental therapists in Victoria since 1972. It traces this journey through the lived experience of the dental therapists and academics associated with their education and training. Importantly,

Cat. 1 Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch (est. 1928), *Memorandum to the Australian Dental Association on the Problems Involved in Providing a National Dental Health Service*, 1944, print on paper. HFA4626, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.



it highlights the crucial role of advocacy in securing the professional frameworks and tertiary education for dental therapists and oral health therapists. Crucial were the industry associations, the Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists' Association (ADOHTA) and Victorian Dental Therapist Association (renamed VDOHTA in 2008), which advocated for change in Victoria.

The project team was led by Professor Julie Satur and Professor Mike Morgan, honorary curator of the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum, with Dr Jacqueline Healy, the director of museums in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, and Tess Scott, the registrar of faculty museums, who consulted with ADOHTA, practitioners, researchers and academic staff. Key to the process was Julie Satur directly contacting the extended network of practitioners, seeking their stories and memorabilia to document pivotal changes over the last 50 years. Important outcomes were loans and gifts of material, such as certificates, class photographs, wax teeth, uniforms, course results and class notes. Significantly, the archive material from the now-defunct VDOHTA, which documents the major legislative and policy changes in Victoria that enabled the practice of dental therapists, has become a substantial addition to the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum collection. It also includes material that provides evidence of changing social values.

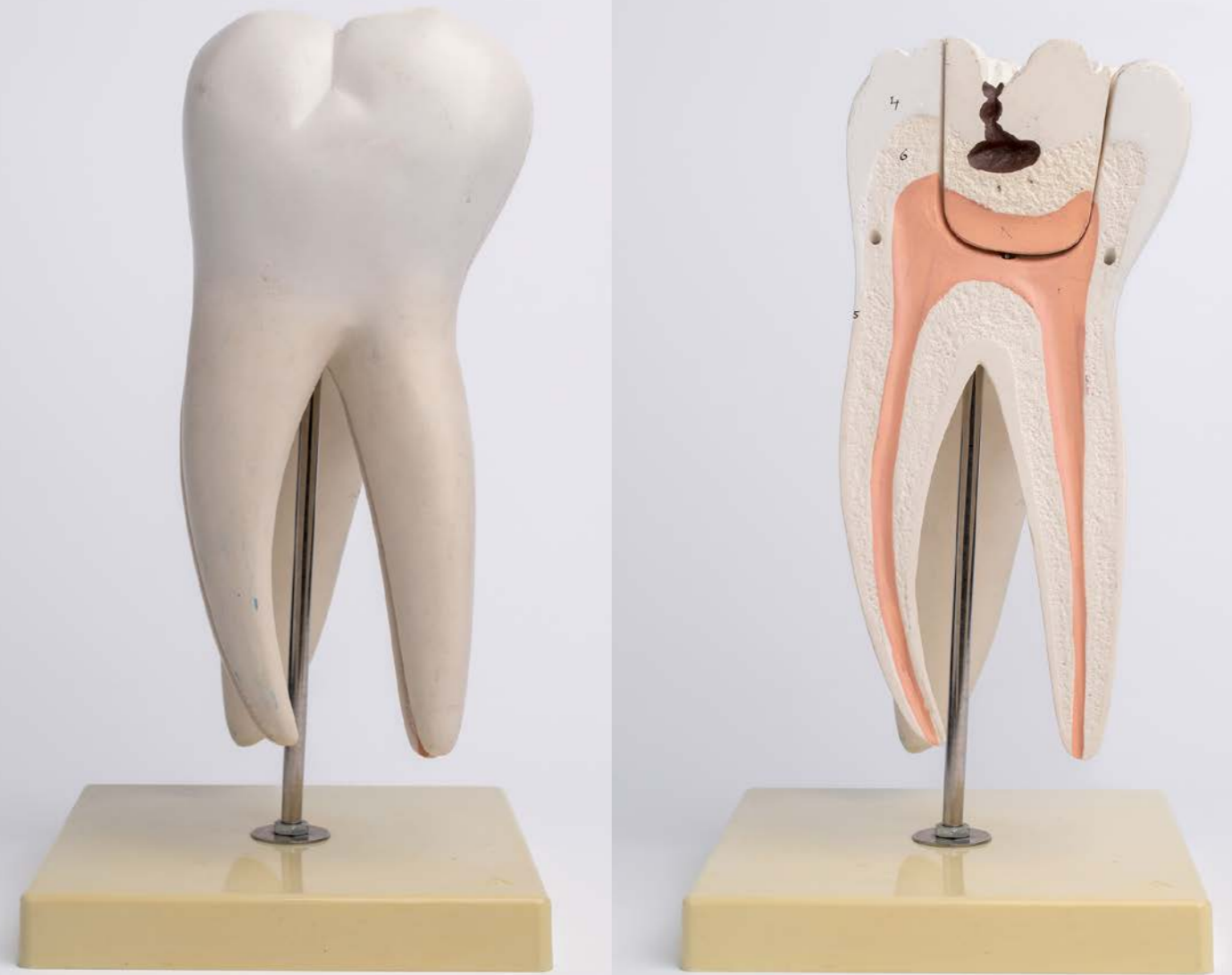
Julie Satur's introductory essay provides a history of the profession, from the emergence of dental therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists in Australia. It maps the role of advocacy, through VDOHTA and ADOHTA, in securing key legislative changes that were then reflected in the transformation of training from clinic-based to tertiary education. Julie Satur was in the first class of dental therapists admitted to the Dental Therapy School, Department of Health Victoria training program, in 1977. She was instrumental in the transition of dental therapy and hygiene education, from the certificate courses of the 1970s to the bachelor program it is today, and she was the first woman to be promoted to professor at Melbourne Dental School, in 2017.

Julie Satur's essay sets the scene for turning points in the profession, responded to here by practitioners and academics. These are grouped into seven themes: 'Beginnings', 'Professional organisations', 'Legislation, regulation and policy', 'Developing a discipline', 'Dental therapists in practice', 'Public health and outreach' and 'Health leadership'. These themes provide the framework for the exhibition and this publication.

In the beginning, training for Australian dental therapists occurred in New Zealand; Sue McKinlay writes about her experiences there, while Rhonda Kremmer and Lynne Brown reflect on the inaugural training program in Victoria. The exhibition includes a set

Cat. 111 3B Scientific (est. 1948), **Large model of a molar with removable pulp and tooth inserts**, c. 1980, plastic, metal. HFA4646, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

A 15-times life-size model used for demonstrating stages of tooth decay.





of lecture notes for first-year dental therapy students, used in 1976. Often remarked about is the strict rules in relation to the dental therapist uniforms, such as the length—one inch above the floor when kneeling! Uniforms are on display with associated badges loaned by various individuals.

Professional organisations were key players in raising the role of dental therapists. Gemma Kennedy writes of the Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA) campaign ‘Great Smile! Who’s Your Dental Therapist?’, which produced keyrings, stickers and hats. Designed in 1996, the VDTA logo was purple and green, inspired by the colours of the women’s suffrage movement. Pamphlets, caps and associated material have been loaned and gifted.

Many dedicated people lobbied for appropriate legislative, regulation and policy reform. Pamela Leong notes how the *Dental Practice Act 1999* (Vic.) foreshadowed profound changes for the practice of dentistry by dental therapists in Victoria, and articulates how codes of practice developed in the following decade. Items from VDOHTA assist in understanding the process of engagement. This includes a copy of the Dental Practice Bill, Explanatory Memorandum 23/4/99, which explained the purposes of the bill and is inscribed ‘Julie – many thanks, Robert Doyle’.

The transition to tertiary education and development of the curriculum was fundamental to the advancement of the profession. Key academics and practitioners write about this transition. Professor Mark Gussy signals the success of the Diploma in Oral Health Therapy at the University of Melbourne as an innovative model for supporting integration of dental therapy and hygiene educational programs, and Brenda Ryan, Joh Lazaro and Alison Lewis outline the significance of including ‘adult scope’ in the courses. Photographs of academic staff for the key courses and graduation ceremonies, as well as related material, have been collected for display. Of particular interest is a 1997 *Herald Sun* article, ‘Death fear in dental row’, on plans for community health centres staffed by dental therapists to provide services to low-income groups, which was not supported by the Australian Dental Association. It shows the ongoing debate at that time with the dental profession.

A key theme of *Shaping a profession* is dental therapists in practice, with examples encompassing the provision of school services to setting up private practices. A fundamental role of dental therapists has been in school services, contributing greatly to preventive care. Aimee Brond and Jacqui Corbett share their experiences, including treating a child on a playground monkey bar. Images in the exhibition show the progression of this service, commencing with the early dental vans that were moved from place to place.

Cat. 85 *Cumberland Newspaper* (Vic.) (est. c. 1960s, closed 1978), **Dental therapist Christine Hill with child patient outside dental van**, 1978–79, photograph. HFA4359, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

A driving force behind dental therapists' contribution is their commitment to public health and outreach. Susanne Sofronoff recounts dental therapists' strong representation both in membership and convenor roles with the National Oral Health Promotion Steering Group (NOHPSG), established in 2006. Eliza Collins relates the extensive outreach work in remote and Aboriginal communities. The exhibition captures images of students and practitioners in the field.

The skills of dental therapists have translated into leadership roles, and Nicole Bartholomeusz, CEO of cohealth, mentions many people from the profession who have inspired her over the years. Catherine Thompson and Kellie-Ann Jolly recount their contribution to embedding oral health education into the Victorian primary school curriculum. The 1993 activity pack, 'Dental Health Education: A Curriculum Approach, Prep to Year Six', assisting children in improving and maintaining the health of their teeth and gums for life, is included in the exhibition.

It has been a remarkable journey of 50 years, and *Shaping a profession* celebrates the many achievements and recognises the hard-fought battles to gain acceptance and respect. Dental therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists in Australia will continue to serve the wellbeing of the community in innovative ways, just as they have done for the last 50 years.

**Dr Jacqueline Healy**

Director, Museums, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Cat. 255 Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA), 'Great Smile. Who's Your Dental Therapist?' cap, c. 1999, cotton, metal, plastic, ink. HFA4427, gift of Julie Satur, 2023, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

VDTA awareness-raising initiative distributed 'Great Smile. Who's Your Dental Therapist?' stickers, keyrings and caps.





## K-SKIPS TO LEADERSHIP: THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROFESSION

As early as 1919, a Melbourne dentist advocated a state dental service that would primarily have educational and other preventive functions. He drew on the British system of ‘dental dressers’ for a new ‘oral hygienist’ in Victoria, who would provide much of the care under the supervision of a dentist. In 1923, when considering the extension of dental treatment for children, the Victorian cabinet, through its Department of Education, wrote to the New Zealand School Dental Service’s principal dental officer expressing interest in its scheme to train young women as dental nurses for work in schools. It would take more than 50 years for that to become a reality. To mark the 50th anniversary of dental therapy, dental hygiene and oral health therapy in Victoria, *Shaping a profession: 50 years of dental therapists* explores the development of the profession and its contribution to dental public health in Victoria.

On 13 May 1972, the *Dentists Act* was passed in the Victorian Parliament, enabling the creation of dental therapists. Modelled on New Zealand’s school dental nurses, dental therapists would be employed by the state to staff the expanded School Dental Service (originally established with dentists in 1920), providing dental care to Victoria’s school children under the direction and control of staff dentists. They were to operate in a primary care role, carrying out low- to medium-technology dental care and health education, referring patients to dentists for services beyond their skills.

### **The founding of dental therapy and hygiene in Victoria**

In the 1930s, the director of the School Dental Service, with the vocal backing of Victorian Mothers Clubs, said that ‘the amount of work needed for children was beyond the capacity of dentists’ and there was a need for ‘New Zealand style School Dental Nurses’.<sup>1</sup> A fact-finding mission again investigated New Zealand’s scheme in 1946. Finally, in 1965, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommended that any jurisdiction responsible for the dental care of Australian children ‘should now give consideration to the utilization of dental auxiliary personnel in the form of the School Dental Nurse’.<sup>2</sup> The NHMRC noted the participation rate and social acceptance of the New Zealand scheme, but also the reluctance of the dental profession to support the concept of operative dental auxiliaries in Australia. It made recommendations that required systematic, regularised non-university training; the complementary (rather than substitute) nature of dental auxiliary practice; the need to define the range of skills they could practice; and the need for direction and control of their services by a registered dentist. Besides this,

Cat. 45 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995), **The Dental Therapy School at 448 St Kilda Road, Melbourne**, c. 1976, photograph. HFA3969, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

courses were to be as short as possible for cost-effectiveness while ensuring competence; school dental nurses should be female and have their employment restricted to the government service; and each state should train sufficient 'auxiliaries' for their own needs to reduce the risks of competitive salaries and other 'undesirable developments'.<sup>3</sup> The hated term 'auxiliary' was thus established in policy.

In Victoria, training of dental therapists began with the establishment of the Dental Therapy School under the auspices of the Department of Health. Following completion of HSC, female students aged under 26 years were offered a four-year cadetship as public servants: two years of training with a stipend followed by two in bonded service in Victoria's School Dental Service. The first program had an intake of 60 students and was conducted from a purpose-fitted new building at 448 St Kilda Road, Melbourne. The building included a preclinical laboratory, lecture theatre, teaching spaces and a 60-chair paediatric dentistry clinic.

Like women in the nursing profession at the time, dental therapists learned contemporary dental practice through a vocational model that emphasised duty and service and conformed to social notions of a feminised occupation.<sup>4</sup> They graduated into a systematised environment, working in brand-new clinics established in school grounds and in mobile units with one or two dental surgeries.

In 1977, the Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA) was formed, initiated by the group of 10 young women sent to New Zealand to train as school dental nurses in 1974 and the then second-year Victorian dental therapy cadets.

The program continued with intakes of 60 students, but in response to perceptions that there were sufficient dental therapists to meet workforce needs, the intake was reduced over time to 10, with some fallow years during the 1990s. In 1988, the Victorian Post-Secondary Accreditation Board retrospectively accredited the program as a Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy).<sup>5</sup>

Dental hygienists first practised in Victoria in 1989, following amendments to the regulations of the *Dentists Act 1972* (Vic.). This created a new division of the register and described their 'duties' for the first time. Dental hygienists were limited to employment in private dental practices. They could work only under the direction, supervision and control of a dentist, who could employ only one dental hygienist to provide preventive and periodontal services upon prescription. Dental hygienists were not allowed to diagnose or work without a dentist on site and their names could not appear on practice stationery, advertising or brass plates.

Cat. 48 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995), **Principal dental therapist Mrs Anne Fuller (née Dyson), dentist Dr Robinson and first-year dental therapy students Gaylene Nash, Kerry Knevitt and Kaylene Smart**, 1977, photograph. HFA3975, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

The first-year cadet uniform worn here is a white dress with two blue stripes on the cuffs and a pair of K-Skip shoes.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH — VICTORIA  
**TRAINING IN DENTAL THERAPY**  
**AN INTERESTING AND REWARDING CAREER**

Applications are invited from young persons wishing to study Dental Therapy at the Dental Therapy School, 488 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne.

The training is for a period of two years. Upon graduation successful students are qualified to be licensed as school dental therapists and will be employed in the Public Service of Victoria providing dental treatment for children in schools throughout the State under the supervision of dentists.

Applicants should be under the age of 26 years on 31-3-1976 and have satisfactorily completed, or be sitting for the Higher School Certificate or equivalent. English and science type subjects are an advantage.

Applicants will be required to enter into a bond to remain in the Public Service for two years after graduation. Applicants will be required to undertake a medical examination.

**Yearly allowances payable during training are:**

Age	Living at Home	Living away from Home
17 years	\$2445	\$2706
18 years	2709	2970
19 years	2971	3232
20 years	3274	3535
Adult	3573	3834

If you are interested in undertaking this course an application, on the form available from the **Secretary, Dental Health Services, 4th Floor, 224 Queen Street, Melbourne. Phone 67-7873, should be lodged with him by 21st November, 1975.**

In 1986, a Victorian Department of Health review of dental services made recommendations that dental hygienist training be established in Victoria, but there was no apparent activity on this at the time.

**From vocational to university education**

Following the 1988 recommendations of the Victorian Post-Secondary Accreditation Board, the Department of Health explored options for dental therapy education, and a 1993 review of this workforce's training needs recommended university training. When expressions of interest were called, responses were received from RMIT, which trained dental technicians, La Trobe University, which had other health science programs, and the University of Melbourne, which had a dental school.

For some time, the Australian Dental Association's (ADA) Victorian branch, which had identified hygienists as the 'auxiliary of choice', had been applying political pressure to cease dental therapist training and initiate dental hygienist training. With the support of the dean, a group at the University of Melbourne's School of Dental Science had also begun developing a new dental-hygiene training program. In 1994, the state government agreed to initiate a ministerial workforce review to examine the future treatment and workforce needs for Victoria but focused only on the workforce profile and skills of dental 'auxiliaries'. The review panel was chaired by Robert Doyle, later Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health, and comprised representatives of several stakeholder groups, including, for the first time, the VDTA.<sup>6</sup> There was again strong debate about whether to continue dental therapy training or whether dental hygiene training ought to be developed instead; there was also considerable opposition from some quarters to combining the two.

The review reported in March 1995, recommending dental therapists should continue to work with children and that a pilot program be initiated to examine the feasibility of them offering dental services to adult healthcare cardholders. It further recommended 'a new category of dental auxiliary should be introduced within Victoria, effectively combining and replacing the categories of dental therapist and hygienist' and that appropriate tertiary training for this role should be carried out in a university. The dental auxiliary workforce review had also recommended that 'tertiary trainers should provide articulation for present dental therapists and hygienists to qualify as the new auxiliary'.<sup>7</sup>

With the support of Professor Clive Wright, the dean, a new course, the Diploma in Oral Health Therapy (comprising dental therapy and dental hygiene streams), was developed at the University of Melbourne following the School of Dental Science's successful bid to bring the existing dental therapy program under its auspices. This was

Cat. 25 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria, 'Training in dental therapy: an interesting and rewarding career', 1975, paper. HFA4461, gift of Julie Satur, 2023, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

Advertisement, with applicants to be aged under 26, female and unmarried.

the first time a university dental school had undertaken the training of dental therapists and hygienists together in Australia or New Zealand, had appointed dental therapists and hygienists as academics, and had offered oral health therapist preparation.

### Curriculum development

The first program offered by the University of Melbourne was built on the foundations of the Associate Diploma in Dental Hygiene and the Diploma of Applied Science in Dental Therapy. Its first year contained social sciences, health sciences and clinical content that was common to both professional streams; in second year, students studied in either the dental hygiene or the dental therapy clinical stream and together continued with the health promotion subjects.

Following the appointment of Hanny Calache (course co-ordinator), Julie Satur (dental therapy) and Mark Gussy (dental hygiene and dental therapy), the first students were admitted to the Diploma in Oral Health Therapy (OHT) in 1996. This program was accredited in 1997 and delivered from 1996 until 2004. In 1998, the Lateral Entry Program was offered, allowing registered dental therapists and hygienists to enter the second year of the program with advanced standing to complete a second Diploma in OHT in the alternative clinical stream. A review of the diploma by the School of Dental Science in 1998 recommended shifting to a combined skills outcome Bachelor of OHT. A curriculum for the bachelor program was developed, but the political landscape within the school and dentist profession was against a combined-outcome degree. The program remained as two diplomas. In 2003, the OHT teaching group again developed a curriculum and proposed a Bachelor of Oral Health, but as two single-outcome programs (dental therapy or dental hygiene). It was supported by the school, accredited by the university and the Australian Dental Council in 2004, and offered for the first time in 2005.

The first cohort began the program in 2005, with a second intake in February 2006. In 2006, several stakeholders—Department of Health, Dental Health Services Victoria, VDTA and Dental Hygienists Association of Australia, Victorian branch—indicated they now supported a combined-outcome program, as it would have significant advantages for public dental health over the single-outcome program, allowing graduates to register to practice in both clinical disciplines. The combined-outcome Bachelor of Oral Health (BOH) was approved by the Academic Board of the university in early 2006. As the first year of the program was essentially unchanged, all first-year single-outcome students could transfer to the combined program. The second-year students, who had completed first year in 2005, made a successful case to the university that they too should be given the opportunity to transfer to the new combined program. Consequently, these students graduated as Victoria's first BOH-qualified oral health therapists in 2007.

Cat. 28 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995), **First-year students in the preclinical 'op tech' lab**, 1976, photograph. HFA3974, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

Left to right: Sue Morris, Jenny Diprose (long sleeves), Nonee Hinchcliff standing with Annette Pritchard, seated Kerrie Kneivt and Robyn Lawson.





Parallel to this, public dental waiting lists were escalating and there were indications of significant workforce shortages in rural Victoria. In both private and publicly funded sectors, recruitment and retention issues were worsening. Professor Hal Swerissen, who was the associate dean at La Trobe University in Bendigo, Robyn Batten, CEO of Dental Health Services Victoria, and Professor Marc Tennant approached the state government for funding for a second BOH program. With approval and funds secured, this strong partnership bravely tackled the conservatives of the dental education establishment and developed a rural-based bachelor course. The Department of Oral Health was established within the Faculty of Health Studies at La Trobe University in Bendigo, with Colleen McCarthy appointed as clinical lead, joined soon after by Mark Gussy as program director. Its first Bachelor of Oral Health Science (BOHSc) commenced with an intake of 12 students in 2006. Using its strengths in public health and health sciences teaching, and with a broad rural footprint for clinical placements, La Trobe's program grew to 30 places per year by 2008.

A third BOH program was later established, with the support of the Victorian Department of Health, at Holmesglen Chadstone under the auspices of Charles Sturt University in New South Wales, beginning in 2014.

#### **Accreditation and legislation**

When the *Dentists Act* established dental therapists in Victoria in 1972, therapists' employment was confined to the School Dental Service, their practice was limited by a list of duties that prescribed the care they could provide, and they were subject to the direction and control of a dentist. In 1989, when dental hygienists were established, the requirement of 'supervision' was added to their practice. While dental therapists were able to diagnose and treatment plan care, dental hygienists were restricted to providing listed services prescribed by a dentist.

These conditions continued until the mid-1990s, at which time a maturing profession began to question its status and the impact of regulations on access to dental care in an underserved community. Dental therapists moved into leadership roles, grew their professional organisation and sought policy participation, arguing for better utilisation of the profession. The Commonwealth Dental Health Program made visible the needs of adult patients in the public system and the National Competition Policy created an imperative to examine health practitioner regulation and monopoly behaviour. The VDTA became an active policy stakeholder advocating for the needs of underserved communities and the public dental sector, presenting an alternative view to that of the ADA. It actively argued

Cat. 32 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995), **Dental Therapy School Handbook 1976-77**, 1976, paper, metal, plastic. HFA4437, gift of Julie Satur (née Smedley), 2023, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

Green folder of course notes used by Julie Smedley.



for removing restrictions on dental therapists and hygienists. It also emerged as an expert and alternative contributor to policy debates, and it sought participation in regulation and dental policy-making. Many settings had needs that matched therapists' skills, and the VDTA was also advocating for wider employment, including in the private sector.

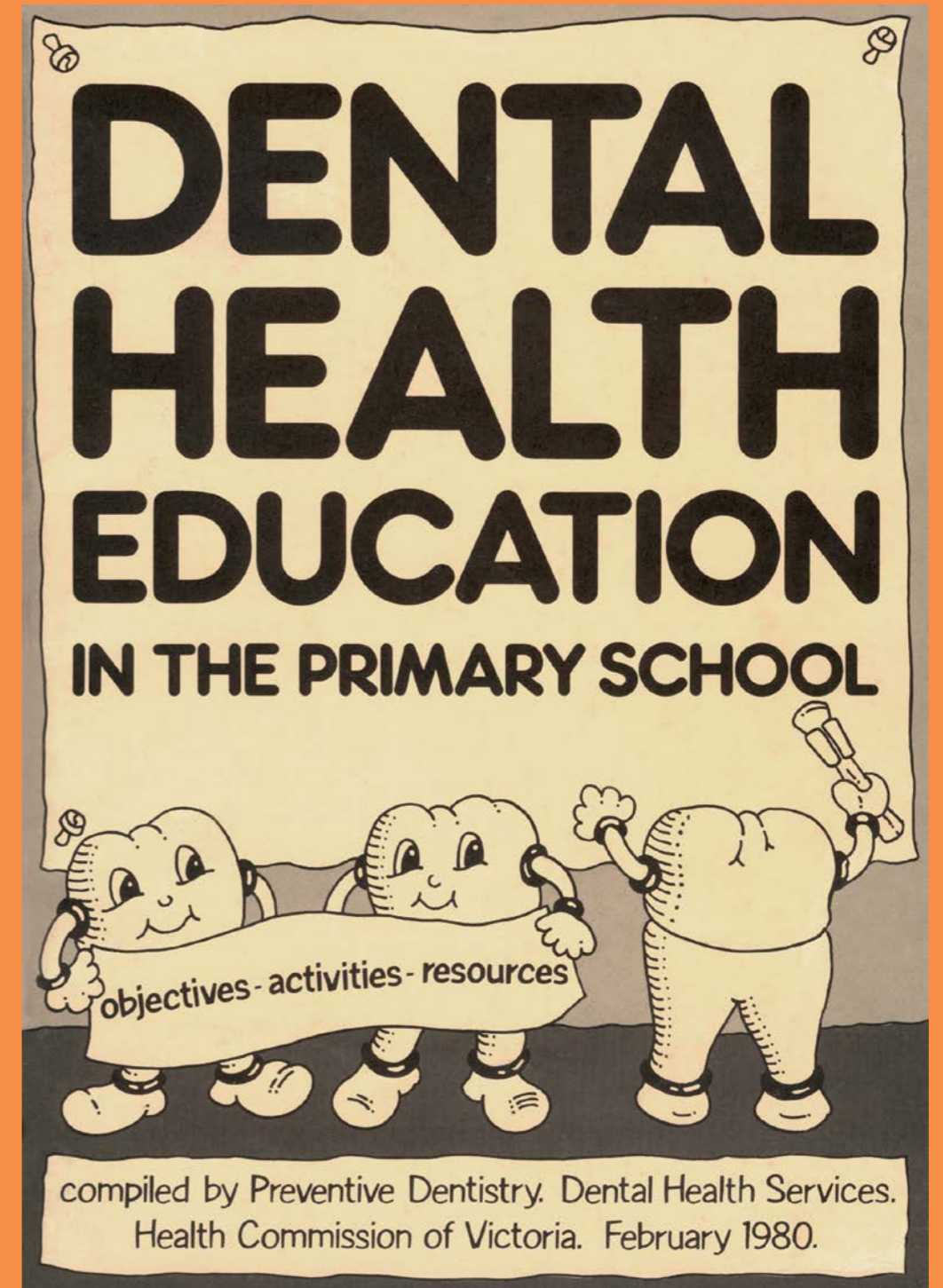
A review of the *Dentists Act*<sup>8</sup> in 1998 drove change that resulted in new legislation, the *Dental Practice Act 1999* (Vic.). This removed employment limits for dental therapists and hygienists, and provided for full registration as health practitioners, title protection, the ability to own a dental practice and, for the first time, a seat on the new Victorian Dental Practice Board of Victoria. The Act also enabled sanctions for unprofessional conduct and required professional indemnity insurance, making dental therapists and hygienists responsible for their own practice, but retaining supervision of practice. Subsequent regulation reviews led to the removal of the 'lists of duties', establishing scope of practice standards common to both streams and built on educational preparation. Limited autonomy remained, however, through the requirement for a structured professional relationship with a dentist.

#### All-age practice

In the early 1990s, Australia's public dental providers advocated to translate the success of the School Dental Service across the population, using dental therapists to provide care (within their existing scope) to adults. In 1995, the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council agreed to testing the proposal, with federal and state health departments funding the pilot. With the support of the state dental directors, Victoria and New South Wales agreed to host pilots. An 'options paper' describing the role and the skills and training a dental therapist or hygienist would need was developed by a group that included Hanny Calache, Braham Pearlman, Julie Satur and Leonie Short. But the proposal and pilot were never implemented, due to virulent political opposition from the ADA. The push was supported by findings from research in 1996 into the cost of anti-competitive behaviour in the Australian dental industry. The study found that in 1993–94 the 10 most commonly provided dental services to eligible veterans—comprising 60.09 per cent of all dental services for that financial year—were treatments and procedures provided by dental therapists to primary and secondary school students in Australia.<sup>9</sup>

Advocacy continued but it took almost 10 years before a pilot was run. Led by Hanny Calache, a Dental Health Services Victoria research team evaluated dental therapists' ability to provide restorative services to adults, as prescribed by a dentist. Naturally, a dentist's care was considered the 'gold standard' for people of all ages, but the trial demonstrated, unequivocally, that the quality of care provided in the trial was at least

Cat. 98 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria, *Dental Health Education in the Primary School*, 1980, card, paper. HFA4435, gift of Julie Satur, 2023, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.





equivalent to that of a new graduate dentist.<sup>10</sup> Another pilot soon followed to evaluate dental therapists' ability, with minimal additional training, to autonomously provide dental therapy services (including diagnosis and treatment planning within their scope) to adults within a collaborative, referral relationship with a dentist; that is, usual practice. Again, the care was of an appropriate quality—acceptable to patients and cost-effective.<sup>11</sup> This led to the Victorian Dental Practice Board removing the patient age limit for dental therapists in 2009.

Following changes to the regulations in Victoria, La Trobe University developed a new single subject, Advanced Clinical Practice, in its BOHSc program, to prepare undergraduates for non-age-limited dental therapy (restorative) practice. In late 2010, the La Trobe BOHSc course (now called Adult Dental Therapy) was added to the board's approved programs to prepare oral health therapists in adult-scope restorative care.

Shortly after the changes to the Victorian legislation, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the Dental Board of Australia were established, replacing state and territory dental practice legislation with national law. The first scope of practice standard promulgated by the Dental Board of Australia, establishing the regulatory framework for dental practitioners in 2010, provided for autonomous practice within scope for dental therapists, hygienists and oral health therapists. It also removed the much-hated term 'dental auxiliary', while retaining the need for a structured professional relationship. Interestingly, this first standard was silent on the issue of and age limit for dental therapy practice, though educational preparation was still limiting restorative care to those under 25 years of age.

In 2010, the Melbourne Dental School also began considering how to enable adult-scope dental therapy practice. Demand from practitioners and the public dental sector around Australia provided impetus for a postgraduate program. The course finally received school, university and Dental Board of Australia approval in 2013. The program was accessible to registered dental therapists and oral health therapists with at least two years' clinical practice in dental therapy, and it became the first postgraduate course for the profession.

### Autonomy and independence

The first review of the national scope of practice standard in 2014 acknowledged, finally, the ability of dental therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists to practice as primary care providers, referring patients beyond their scope to dentists and other

Top: Cat. 283 **Dental Therapist Victoria badge**, 1979, metal.  
 Bottom: Cat. 289 Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV), **'Teeth for Life' dental therapist badge**, c. 1990, metal, plastic;  
 Cat. 284 Dental Health Services, Department of Health Victoria, **Dental therapist badge**, c. 1980, metal, plastic;  
 Cat. 281 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995), **Dental therapist cadet badge**, 1977–78, metal. All worn and loaned by Debra Brighton (née De Bondt), graduate of the Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1978.



health practitioners. In addition, the standard reflected the findings of research carried out in Melbourne that had established dental hygienists' ability to diagnose and provide treatment-plan care within their own scope.<sup>12</sup> The standard still contained clauses specific to dental therapists, hygienists and oral health therapists, defining a dentist as the clinical team leader and, while removing reference to supervision, retained the requirement for a structured professional relationship.

In the most recent review of the scope of practice registration standard, in 2018, several layers of additional regulation were removed, bringing dental therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists into alignment with dentists and other health practitioners. With the concept of 'team practice' being applied to all dental practitioners, finally the requirement for a 'Structured Professional Relationship with a dentist' and the words 'but are not independent practitioners' were removed.

It had taken almost 50 years to establish regulation that reflected the way dental therapists and hygienists worked, recognising their ability to practice ethically, to self-regulate, to recognise the boundaries of their competence and to refer appropriately. Piece by piece, the regulation and policy limiting full utility of the profession's skills and expertise to meet the considerable unmet need for dental care in Australia were removed. With the application of provider numbers, dental therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists are now recognised by the Commonwealth government, Medicare, the Department of Veterans Affairs and many private health insurers as independent providers extending the reach of the profession into high-needs populations.

Despite the robust feminism of the 1970s, our white uniformed, all female, subordinated predecessors were trapped in structural approaches to professional dominance that deliberately shaped the culture of the dental therapy professions. This exhibition celebrates the evolution and development of our professions, and the transition from a subordinated practitioner who was limited by prescriptive regulation and excluded from policy participation to full professional recognition.

In 2023, eight out of 10 Australian BOH programs are educating oral health therapists with only Torrens Valley TAFE and Griffith University offering single-skill outcome programs. Like their dentistry counterparts, these programs are accredited to meet the professional competencies defined by the Australian Dental Council to enable registration to practice by the Dental Board of Australia. Their graduates are also able to practice in New Zealand, and the qualification is recognised in many other countries, although only Australia and New Zealand have title protection for oral health therapists.

Cat. 188 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995), **First-year students, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1991–92**, 1991, photograph. HFA4554, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

Left to right, back row: Carol Cooper, Katherine Lilburn, Andrea Boseley, Maria Wendel, Jenny Juschkat, Naomi Clark. Front row: Johanne Plunkett, Loretta Sutcliffe, Lidija Susanj, Heather Yoxall, Jenny Engassner.

Dental therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists now work in many settings beyond the traditional school and community dental programs and private general practices. They work in specialist practices, hospital and special needs dentistry settings, Aboriginal health services, remote outreach programs, mental health, drug and alcohol services, residential and aged-care facilities, and youth and homeless outreach programs. They own and run their own private practices and aged residential care services and they lead community-based oral health programs and volunteer services. They hold postgraduate qualifications, lead the development of the discipline and programs of education and research, and they lead their profession and its regulation, working to improve oral health in the community and to extend the capacity of the oral health care system.

### Professor Julie Satur

- 1 The Dental Board of Victoria, *The Dental Board of Victoria: A History of Its First Hundred Years, Impressions and Registrations*, The Dental Board of Victoria, Melbourne, 1993, p. 105.
- 2 National Health and Medical Research Council, 'Dental Auxiliary Personnel'; reprinted from the *Report of the 60th Session of the National Health and Medical Research Council*, CGP, Canberra, October 1965.
- 3 The NHMRC noted several times in its report that auxiliary personnel should be trained through an appropriate government program but 'that this is not a matter for the University Dental schools'.
- 4 White uniforms were supplied and regularly inspected for neatness and length. Handbook instructions included: 'students must sign in and out in the Duty Time Book ... Prescribed shoes and 'flesh coloured hose to be worn ... hair to be clean and tied back ... nails clean and short ... make-up must be neat and natural'. The course at that time included a range of health and dental science subjects: operative dentistry and clinical dentistry, preventive dentistry, dental health education as well as 'art' and 'grooming and deportment'. *Student Handbook*, Dental Therapy School, 1976.
- 5 Anecdotal evidence indicates Christine Millsteed (a New Zealand-trained dental therapist who was principal dental therapist for the School Dental Service at the time and an executive member of the VDTA) prepared the documentation for the program's accreditation at home, on her kitchen table.
- 6 The dental auxiliary workforce review committee consisted of representatives from the Dental Technicians Association of Victoria (Michael Hannon), the Dental Board of Victoria (Dr Ross King), the Dental Hygienists Association of Australia, Vic. branch (Paulette Liang), Victorian Dental Therapist Association (Libby Mears), the Australian Dental Association, Vic. branch (Dr Roger Newbury), the School of Dental Science, University of Melbourne (Prof. Clive Wright), the CEO of the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne (Dr Martin Dooland) and the manager of Dental Health Services, Department of Health & Community Services, Vic. (John MacLennan).
- 7 Department of Health and Community Services (Vic.), *Dental Auxiliary Workforce Review: Report to the Minister for Health, March 1995*, DH&CS, Melbourne, 95/0029. In a letter of reply to Robert Doyle's recommendations, dated July 1995, then Minister for Health Marie Tehan had included the comment that they should be allowed to specialise in either area.
- 8 The review of the *Dentists Act* was again led by Robert Doyle, by then Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Community Services in the Kennett government.
- 9 C Millsteed, 'The Dental Industry: Costs of Anti-Competitive Behaviour', masters thesis, University of Melbourne, 1996.
- 10 H Calache, J Shaw, V Groves, R Mariño, M Morgan, M Gussy, J Satur and M Hopcraft, 'The capacity of dental therapists to provide direct restorative care to adults', *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 33, no. 5, October 2009, pp. 424-9.
- 11 H Calache and MS Hopcraft, 'Provision of oral health care to adult patients by dental therapists without the prescription of a dentist', *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*, vol. 72, no. 1, 2011, pp. 19-27.
- 12 MS Hopcraft, MV Morgan, JG Satur and FA Wright, 'Utilizing dental hygienists to undertake dental examination and referral in residential aged care facilities', *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology*, vol. 39, no. 4, 2011, pp. 378-84.

Cat. 36 Glenys Webb, **Carved teeth**, 1976, plastic, plaster, plasticine, wax, labelled *G Webb 54*. HFA4469, gift of Glenys Barnes (née Webb), 2023, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

# TURNING POINTS



## BEGINNINGS OF A DISCIPLINE

In 1973, I noticed an advertisement in *The Age* newspaper encouraging young women to apply for a federal government scholarship to study dental therapy in New Zealand. We could choose to study in Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch, and something I found amusing in the interview was that I was asked to smile and show my teeth!

In 1974, we flew to Sydney from around Australia, unsure of what lay ahead or where this could lead in terms of a career. During the two-day orientation, outlining the two-year full-time course, we were informed that our scholarship included food, accommodation, a monthly allowance and a yearly flight home. I flew to Wellington with five others to study at the Wellington School of Dental Therapy.

The dental unit used in our training was archaic by today's standards. It operated with a treadle drill and spittoon. We used slow-speed handpieces and manual instruments for cavity preparation and worked without gloves, safety glasses, masks or gowns. There were no dental assistants, and we hand-mixed silver amalgam with a mortar and pestle, squeezing excess mercury through a cotton cloth into a water-filled container. Our version of 'sterilisation' took place in boiling-water units, along with cold-water soaking in Savlon.

The first year of study comprised lectures and theory, with the second year providing clinical experience. On our return to Melbourne, in 1976, we completed a six-week intensive course on using high-speed drills, rubber dam placement and taking radiographs.

A 'light bulb' moment for us was when we were exposed to the high rate of caries in Australian children, as New Zealand had fluoridated its water widely since 1965; Australia followed many years later. At this point we realised the importance of our studies and the roles we could play in improving the oral health of Australian children.

### Susan McKinlay

Cat. 79 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria, **Dental therapist Robyn Jones delivering dental health education to primary school children**, c. 1977, photograph. HFA4676, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

Robyn Jones was sent to New Zealand to train (note the badge on her uniform). She returned post-training to start at the School Dental Service at Ascot Vale West Primary School.



## RECALLING THE FIRST YEARS OF THE DENTAL THERAPY SCHOOL

In 1976, some 60 young women turned up to an unfinished building at 448 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, to undertake a two-year certificate in dental therapy. It was the first such course in Victoria and would be housed in a brand-new training school initiated and funded by the Whitlam Labor government. We were contracted under a cadetship, and our parents had to sign an agreement that they would pay back our wages if we didn't complete the course plus two years' work for the School Dental Service.

Many of us were from the country and it was our first time away from home. Our matron, Miss Dyson, secured places at student education hostels for country students—'Frank Tate', 'Minimbah' and 'Redcourt' were located close to the Dental Therapy School. Joining other country students, who were studying a variety of courses, we had great accommodation, amazing meals and many inter-hostel balls, which were much fun.

We were the envy of the dental students, as our new building and clinic were state of the art. We spent hours in the lecture theatre, the operative technique lab, carving wax teeth and drilling into extracted teeth that had been set in plaster (we needed good manual dexterity). We collected teeth that dentists had extracted, including bottles of teeth from Ararat, where they did a lot of extractions! Our classroom overlooked the neighbouring Gentle Touch Massage parlour (complete with sex workers) and so we called ourselves the Dental Touch.

Tutorials were held at the end of the day and our committed lecturers demanded a high standard. Our course was contained in a green folder, which was our bible. During second year, there was an assignment on clinical techniques. Despite researching the topic in the Dental School library and presenting a fully referenced assignment, the lecturer explained such efforts could not be credited with extra marks as all the assignment answers were in our course notes. We were not encouraged to seek knowledge from any other source.

Many of us didn't understand the role of a dental therapist when we started. We sat many exams and some had to sit supplementary exams if their performance was below standard. If anyone failed a subject and the subsequent supplementary exam, they had to leave. They would often be tapped on the shoulder from behind in the darkened lecture theatre and taken out the back to be advised of their result and the outcome. Quite often they would arrive in the operative technique room to quickly pack up their belongings.

Cat. 66 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995), **First-year student Gaylene Nash**, 1977, photograph. HFA4348, gift of Julie Satur, 2023, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.



There was no time for goodbyes. They were gone. Others simply left when they found out they would be doing dental procedures on children.

We had a uniform: white dress, stockings and K-Skip shoes, which we changed into once we got to the Dental Therapy School, never travelling on the tram in uniform. Even the length of the uniform was regulated and checked: one inch above the floor when kneeling! When going to lunch outside the building, we had to change out of our uniform and into casual clothes. One day, I, Lynne, simply put a coat over my white uniform. Mrs Fuller (née Dyson) was on the ground floor checking that girls were not leaving in their white dresses. She opened my coat; I was taken, once again, to her office for disciplinary action.

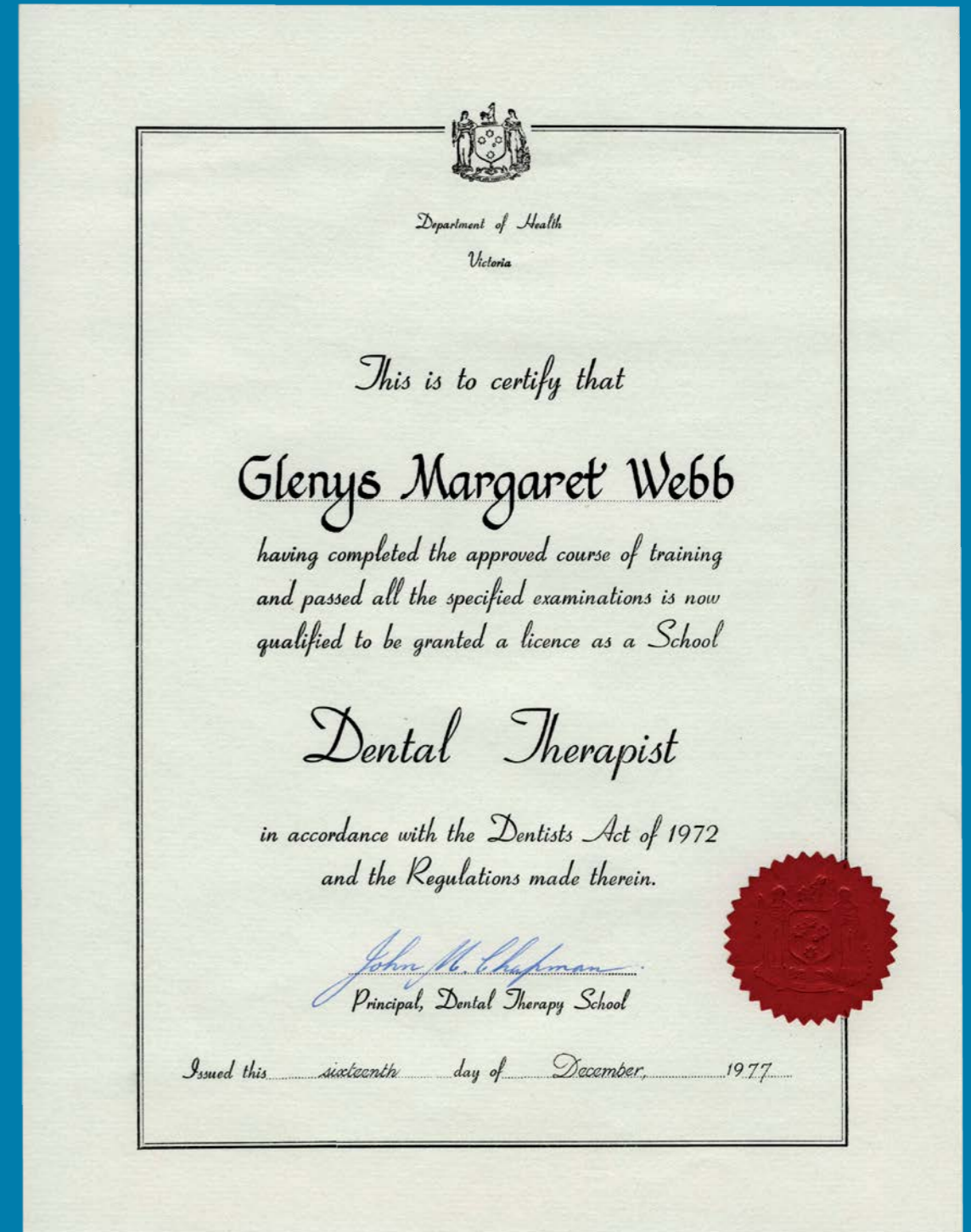
Busloads of children arrived at the clinic for us to treat under supervision. Most of second year was spent in the clinic learning from some wonderful dentist demonstrators. They worked hard to ensure our skills were well developed and we became very good at treating children, doing beautiful fillings and giving painless injections of local anesthetic.

Caries rates were high, and children had numerous cavities and abscesses, many needing tooth extractions. Part of our role was dental prevention, so we would go into primary schools to give classroom lessons and educate teachers and parents. The friendships we made have been life long and our careers have led to many opportunities.

**Rhonda Kremmer and Lynne Brown**

Cat. 292 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995), **Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy)**, conferred to **Glenys Margaret Webb**, 16 Dec. 1977, paper. Loaned by Glenys Barnes (née Webb).

Glenys Webb was among the first cohort of dental therapist cadets.



## SENT TO THE COUNTRY

In Victoria, 1979 was the first year dental therapists were sent to the ‘country’, with Geelong and Gippsland the initial areas. Eight new graduate dental therapists were sent to Gippsland, from Warragul to Sale in mobile dental vans and to fixed clinics in primary schools in Warragul, Morwell, Traralgon, Churchill and Sale.

This was the first time these schools had been visited by the School Dental Service, and visits sometimes took many weeks. As an integral part of the school, we needed to engage with colleagues, school children and their families, and the community. We had a uniform, but we were not allowed to wear the uniform outside of work. So we would change in the van.

Parents gave written consent for their child’s care, and registers were matched against classroom lists to ensure all children with consent were examined and treated. Notes on a child’s treatment were sent to the parents. We escorted children between their classrooms and the dental van. In Heyfield, the van was set up in the state school; we had to climb through the fence to collect children from the adjacent Catholic School and return them after their appointments.

As part of the school program, when the school stopped, we stopped too. During the school holidays, we would make appointments for the term ahead, but there were also times when virtually the whole town was at a school event, such as sports day. At one of those appointments and halfway through the treatment of a child, the parent, who was holding a bag, asked how long it would be because she had to take her pet snake to the vet!

When we had completed our work at one school, a truck would tow the van to the next school. At Fish Creek, the van mover was unable to reverse the up the very steep hill, so a staff member called in a local farmer to assist with his tractor.

We’ve made many multi-generational connections in these communities and come full circle with the introduction of Smile Squad. Recently, two of us, Debra and Andrea, both visited the schools we serviced 40-plus years ago.

**Caroline Koedyk, Debra Brighton and Andrea Riccioni**

*Snowy River Mail*, ‘A pearly white four decades’, 27 Apr. 2023.

Kaye Jacob (née Davidson) and Andrea Riccioni (née Butters) instructing in toothbrushing at Orbost North Primary School in 1983, with insert of a visit on 4 Apr. 2023.



Dental therapist Andrea Riccioni (pictured right) visited Orbost North Primary School four decades ago, and has recently returned to the school to deliver dental care and education. INSET: Andy and Candy with school students at their recent visit on April 4. (rs)

# A pearly white four decades

**Dental therapist Andrea Riccioni, who first visited Orbost North Primary School 40 years ago as a fresh graduate, has returned to the school to deliver free dental care and education to a new generation with Smile Squad.**

“I’m now treating the grandchildren of some of the students I treated back in the 1980s,” Ms Riccioni said.

“Smile Squad allows us to reach children who are most in need, effecting real change and supporting families and wider communities to improve and maintain their oral health, every day.”

Now a Smile Squad lead dental therapist, Ms Riccioni has committed her life to helping people and improving public health outcomes

through teaching and delivering oral health education in schools across Victoria.

“I have a strong dedication to the old school dental program and am delighted Smile Squad is now delivering the same vital service to schools,” Ms Riccioni said.

“I love being able to move around the state, meeting new people, revisiting favourite places, and discovering new ones.”

Dental conditions are the highest single cause of preventable hospitalisations for kids under 10 in Victoria.

Tooth decay is more than five times more prevalent than asthma among children.

Smile Squad is funded by the Victorian Government and delivered by Dental Health Services Victoria and community dental agencies, offering students in government schools

free check-ups and treatment – including teeth cleaning, fluoride application, fissure sealants, fillings and root canals – setting them up for a life of healthy smiles.

The Victorian Government is currently recruiting more dental assistants through the Dental Assisting Traineeship Program – a Dental Health Services Victoria and Jobs Victoria partnership, which supports trainees with mentoring and supervision to undertake the Certificate III in Dental Assisting.

The program supports people who face barriers joining the labour market and gives them the opportunity to ‘earn and learn’ for 12 months which sets them up for a long-term career in the sector.

To learn more or apply, visit the Jobs Victoria website.



## FROM THEN TO NOW

Never did I imagine as a naïve 20-year-old dental therapy graduate that some 35 or so years later I'd still be linked to this profession. Armed with the clinical concept of 'extension for prevention' and an allocation of four new white uniform dresses, I was posted to a clinic in a primary school I'd never heard of.

From then to now, so many changes! Self-determination developed concurrently with the inception of the Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA). As 'extension for prevention' gave way to 'minimal intervention practices', so too did the almost exclusive teaching and use of amalgam as a restorative material give way to the teaching and use of adhesive restorative materials in preclinical and clinical teaching and practice. Introducing a research component in the diploma course developed an academic acumen that, on leaving the confines of the preclinical lab and teaching clinic, students could draw upon to become reflective practitioners.

The growth and changes of the profession continued with dental hygienists and therapists becoming integral members of the dental team. This partnership initiated two growth phases: one integrating the teaching of the clinical skill sets of dental hygiene and therapy into a single degree; the other resulting in VDTA transforming into the Victorian Dental and Oral Health Therapist Association.

As the profession grew, it had incredible supporters and challenges. Its supporters were both within and allied to the profession, and much acknowledgment must be given to Professor Hanny Calache, the first course coordinator of the Bachelor of Oral Health program at the University of Melbourne. The challenges and challengers along the way simply made us more determined.

I've been privileged to teach into this area for about 20 years. Watching students graduate is gratifying, but the best feeling in the teaching world is watching students I've taught become confident clinicians. It's only topped by working with those whom I've taught and now call my teaching colleagues.

Dental therapy outgrew the confines of primary school-based clinics; minimal intervention has replaced Black's cavity designs; and surgical scrubs have replaced the white dresses. Most important was the initiation of the bachelor's degree, with its associated pathways to higher degree qualifications and opportunities.

### Julie Owen

Cat. 131 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995), **Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1980–81, fifth graduate group**, 1981, photograph. HFA4389, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.



## THE VOICE OF THE PROFESSION

Where we work as dental therapists gives a different view of dentistry. We were committed to public practice, to serving all comers, often those facing barriers—financial, physical, social—or in rural and remote environments. Spaces still exist with no services; this shouldn't be the case in a country that values fairness. That's not where all therapists should work, but we had an absolute commitment to reducing inequity.

Stepping beyond dental therapy into public health with our postgraduate study galvanised us. We had potential to do more in a broader context. Then threats to our profession came—workforce reviews and the dominance of the private dental model, which is still structurally dominant. We wanted to flip that model and the Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA) was the advocacy pathway for this. We were part of its leadership in the early 1990s.

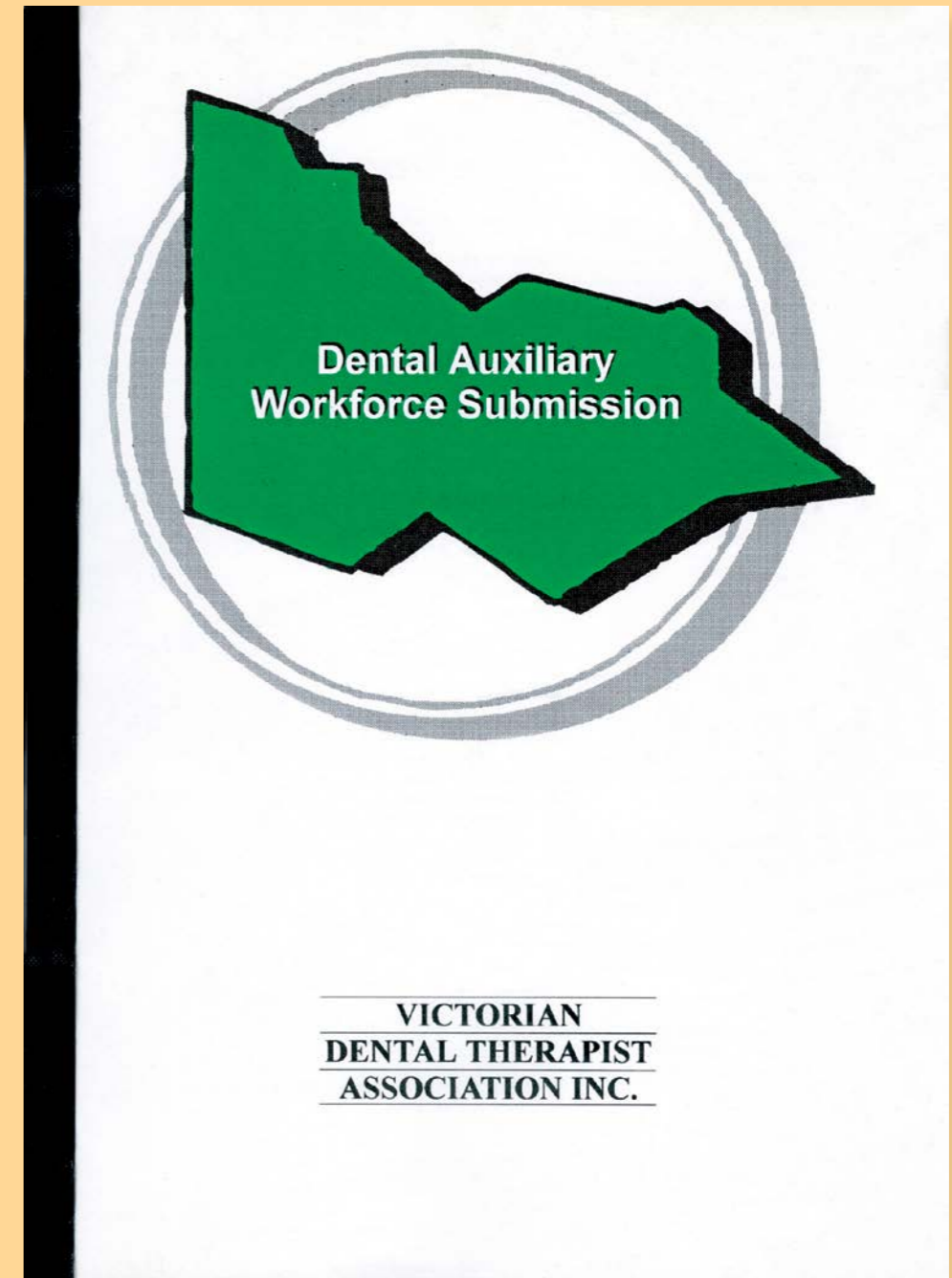
The founding of the Australian Dental Therapists Association meant we could discuss issues with colleagues from outside Victoria: Anne Gaughwin (South Australia), Leonie Short (New South Wales), New Zealand-trained Christine Millstead. They were using epidemiology and health management practices to turn a lens onto our effectiveness. The real challenge then came to the deliberate order and discipline, the unquestioning training of a systematised workforce, the purpose of which was to improve dental care to the point the service was no longer necessary.

When the 1994 Parliamentary workforce review came up, the Department of Health wanted a dental therapist workforce and provided a workable policy context. We were passionate about creating a highly skilled, sustainable public dental workforce and wrote submissions and spoke on behalf of the profession. With Libby appointed to the review panel and able to rationally explain public practice and be a strong voice for equity and the profession, discussions had to consider dental hygienists and therapists. Helen led on advocacy and broad stakeholder engagement ahead of and during preparation of the VDTA submission and presented the VDTA policy position to the review panel.

The public health policy position we created, and positioning the profession as an informed advocate, was probably not what the 'founding dentists' had in mind when they established dental therapy!

### Libby Mears and Helen Dickson

Cat. 209 Victorian Dental Therapist Association, **Dental Auxiliary Workforce Submission**, 1994, card, paper, plastic. HFA4412, gift of Julie Satur, 2023, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.



## FROM VDTA TO VDOHTA

In 1977, the Victorian Dental Therapist Group was formed, with approximately 70 initial members. By 1986 it was working with members, the public sector union and the Department of Health for better wages and conditions.

It was incorporated and became the Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA) on 26 March 1992. Ten years of practice had led to a developing voice through a leadership that included Eleanor Schroeder, Jennifer Atkinson, Melissa Harcourt, Wendy Meers and Kellie-Ann Jolly. The purple and green logo developed in 1992, using the colours of the women's suffrage movement, was retained throughout the life of the Victorian association.

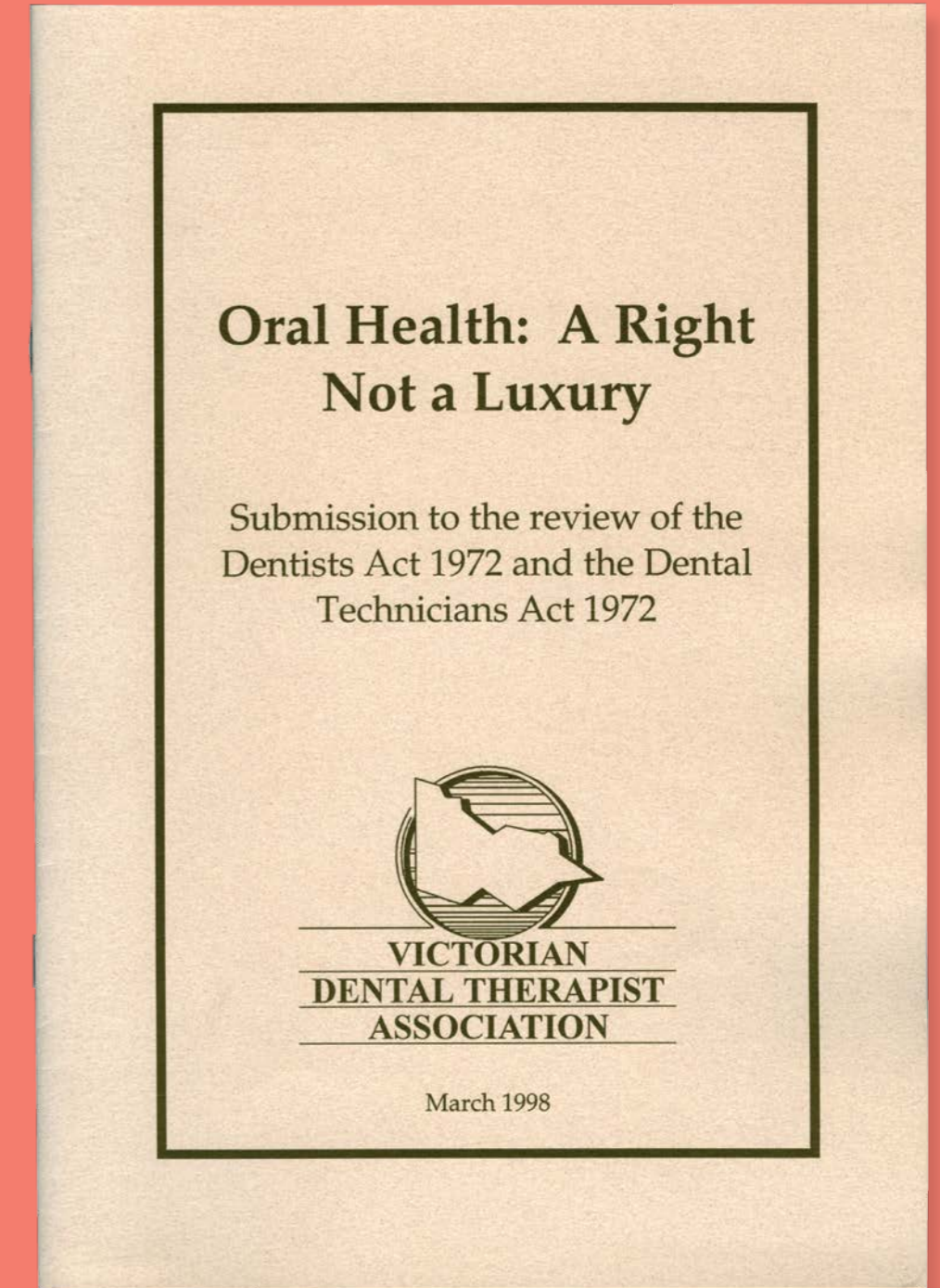
During 1998, the Victorian Government reviewed the state's *Dentists Act 1972* and VDTA, led by then president Julie Satur, presented the submission 'Oral Health: A Right not a Luxury'. This resulted in dental therapists being able to work in the private sector for the first time. VDTA concurrently raised the profile of dental therapists through a media and awareness-raising campaign, 'Great Smile. Who's Your Dental Therapist?'. As a response to new oral health therapists graduating from the University of Melbourne and La Trobe University, Bendigo, VDTA changed its name, in 2008, to become the Victorian Dental and Oral Health Therapist Association (VDOHTA).

VDOHTA was an active stakeholder with Dental Health Services Victoria, the Victorian Department of Health, the University of Melbourne, La Trobe University and the Victorian Dental Practice Board. It became a powerful alternative voice in the dental policy environment and advocated for oral health equity and access to dental care. In April 2007, VDTA was part of the Clinical Advisory Panel, convened to determine the capacity of dental therapists to provide restorative care to adults. This work was all undertaken by volunteer members.

The imperative for the VDTA to be the lead in all CPD was recognised and regular winter breakfasts, evening lectures and conferences were held. In 2007, an inaugural combined Dental Hygienists Association of Australia Victoria branch and VDTA conference, titled 'Partnership, Prevention and Planning', was held in Bendigo. The goal was to foster shared interests between all oral health practitioners. It proved a big success, paving the way for the combined professional association VDOHTA.

### Gemma Kennedy

Cat. 242 Victorian Dental Therapist Association, 'Oral Health: A Right Not a Luxury. Submission to the Review of the *Dentists Act 1972* and the *Dental Technicians Act 1972*', Mar. 1998, card, paper, inscribed on contents page Julie Satur. HFA4409, gift of Julie Satur, 2023, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.



## ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

In 1996, Christine Millstead wrote an important masters thesis looking at anti-competitive market behaviour and the National Competition Policy, which sparked an ‘aha’ moment for us.<sup>1</sup> We saw an opportunity to challenge the restrictive, subordinating regulation that had limited our employment and ability to participate fully in the dental system, and provide services for more people in more settings. We knew a review of the *Dentists Act 1972* would come. I sat with Mark Gussy and Marg Randles-Guzzardi, from the Victorian Dental Therapist Association executive, to go through the Act to ensure we understood it, but we needed help to work out how to get the changes we wanted.

In a very timely way, the Victorian Women’s Trust advertised grants to support women’s participation in policy-making; we received support to write a submission, ‘Oral Health: A Right Not a Luxury’, and in media training. Before we knew it, we were on radio, TV and in newspapers, putting our case, and we were appointed to the ministerial Dental Advisory Committee—at the table with all the stakeholders (mostly men!). Against incredible opposition from the Australian Dental Association, our arguments made ground and the new Act included title protection and full registration for our profession; a seat on the Dental Practice Board of Victoria; an objective of access to care; and the removal of employment limits, freeing us to work wherever there was need for our skills. The first review of regulations removed the prescriptive lists of duties and supervision limits for hygienists—at last they could work without a dentist on site!

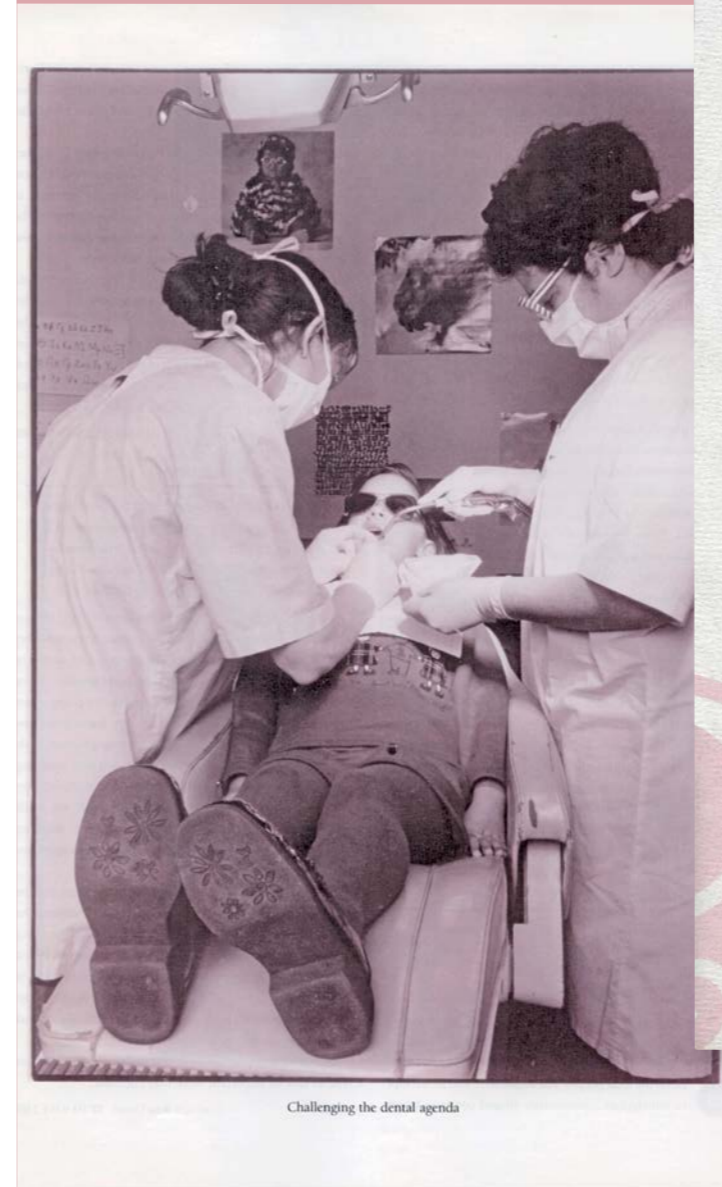
It was an exciting time for the association; our members mobilised to advocate in their communities, and it grew our skills and association. It was also a challenging time, being the first dental therapist on a dental board with so much regulation and policy learning. Progress doesn’t happen without support, and many colleagues in dentistry advocated, provided advice and celebrated with us when the changes came. It was the beginning of a time of great change for dental therapists and hygienists.

### Professor Julie Satur

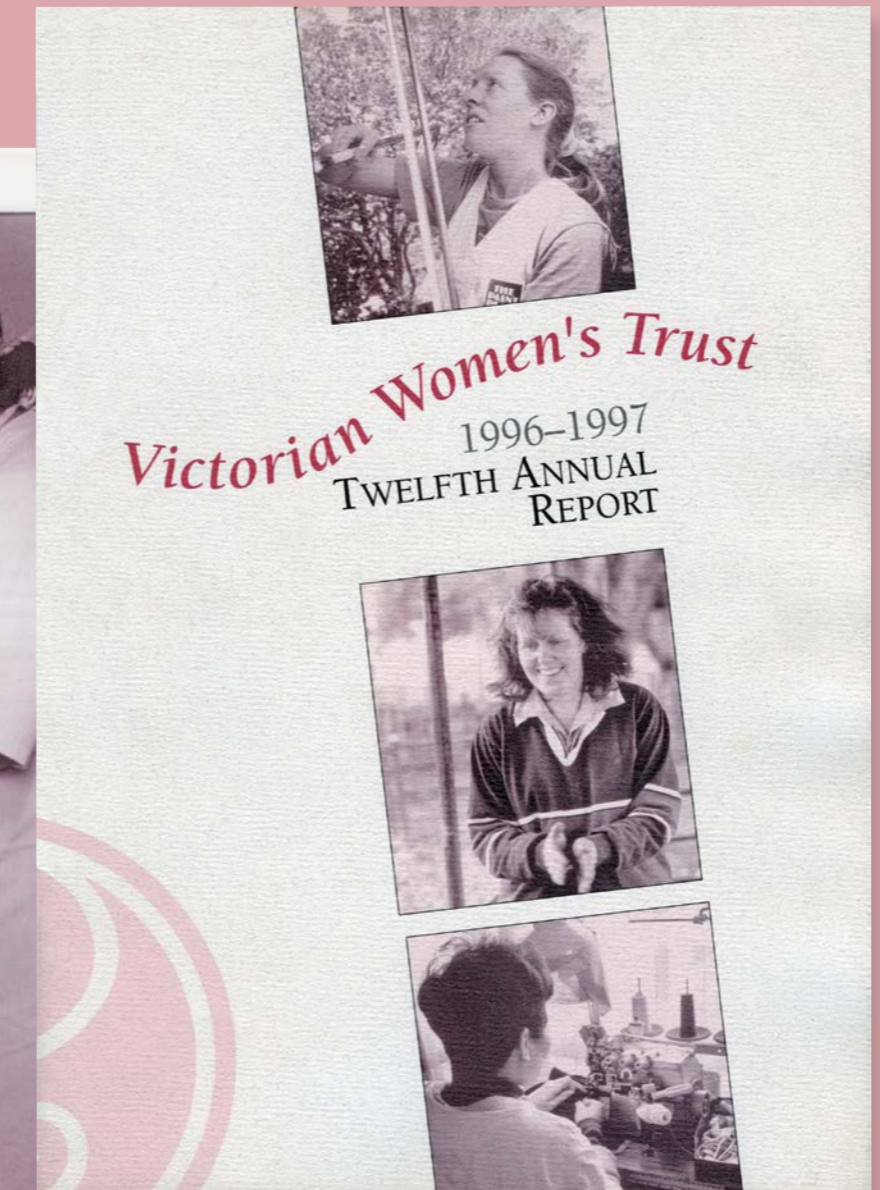
1. C Millstead, ‘The Dental Industry: Costs of Anti-Competitive Behaviour’, masters thesis, University of Melbourne, 1996.

Cat. 221 Victorian Women’s Trust (est. 1985), *Victorian Women’s Trust 1996–1997: Twelfth Annual Report*, 1997, card, paper. HFA4415, gift of Julie Satur, 2023, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

The Victorian Dental Therapist Association received a grant of \$11,000 to advocate on behalf of dental therapists and raise the profile of the profession.



Challenging the dental agenda



## POLICY PARTICIPATION: CHANGES IN PRACTICE, 2000–10

The Dental Practice Board of Victoria (DPBV) was formed in July 2000, with 11 members: five dentists, two dental prosthetists, two lay members, one lawyer and, for the first time at regulatory level, one dental auxiliary (dental therapist or hygienist). Auxiliary members who served were Julie Satur (2000–02), Pamela Leong (2002–10) and Mark Gussy (2007–10).

The DPBV was tasked with setting standards for the regulation and provision of dental care consistent with the *Dental Practice Act 1999* (Vic). Because establishing various codes of practice and guidelines for dentistry in Victoria was one of its primary functions, a range of committees were formed. The first of these was the Dental Auxiliary Advisory Committee, created to develop the *Code of Practice for Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists (C002)*.

Published in July 2002, the code specified that auxiliaries must work within a team headed by a dentist, who had overall responsibility for patient care. It also included a list of procedures, and, for the first time, dental therapists were able to provide orthodontic treatment (under prescription).

Meaningful change came in July 2007 (*C002, Appendix 2*), when auxiliaries' scope of practice became defined by individual education, acquired skills, recency of practice and continuing professional development. The patient age limit for dental therapists was increased to 25 years and the need for supervision was removed, enabling autonomous practice and thus making auxiliaries responsible for the care they provided. However, a documented and structured professional agreement remained between each auxiliary and team leader dentist.

In January 2009, the age limit was removed altogether for dental therapists (*C002, Appendix 3*). The DPBV also approved a clinical trial, which would confirm dental therapists' ability to treat adults. Consequently, the first university course was formally approved for adult scope of practice for dental therapists.

These changes set a precedent in Australia. It placed Victorian dental therapists and hygienists at the forefront of their profession and undoubtedly influenced the direction of professional practice nationally when, in 2010, the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (Cth) was introduced and the DPBV was disbanded.

### Dr Pamela Leong

Extract from Dental Practice Board of Victoria, *Code of Practice for Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists (C002)*, Jul. 2007, Scope of Practice, sections 10 to 13, p.2.

10. There is no age restriction on the practice of dental hygienists.
11. Dental therapists may provide dental care for persons up to and including 18 years of age and, beyond that, on the prescription of a dentist, for persons up to and including 25 years of age.
12. There is no age restriction on the provision of orthodontic procedures by dental therapists.
13. Dental hygienists and dental therapists may not work as independent practitioners. They can exercise autonomous decision making in those areas in which they have been formally educated in courses approved by the Board, but they may only practise with a structured professional relationship with a dentist.

## LEADING CHANGE IN NATIONAL REGULATION

As a new organisation in 1987, the Australian Dental Therapists Association (ADTA; ADOHTA from 2005) was built on the enthusiasm and passion of a small group of motivated volunteer dental therapists. They came from around Australia, and they saw that together they could achieve meaningful change. Work done in Victoria and Tasmania was foundational; their legislation reviews were the first, so they led the initial campaigns for reform. The Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA) laid the groundwork for other states and for many national campaigns.

The national voice that emerged for the profession was stronger for its collectivity than the state-based volunteer resources. When the National Regulation and Accreditation Scheme was developed, the work done by VDTA provided the material to argue that any change should at least maintain VDTA's standards—even though the despised notion of 'supervision' still appeared in the first Dental Board of Australia scope-of-practice regulation.

In the supportive policy, education and public sector environment of Victoria, dental therapists' abilities were recognised and therapists were appointed to policy, management, academic and clinical leadership roles. Practice-evaluation research, including all-age clinical practice, was undertaken first in Victoria, where the inaugural discipline journal originated to develop and share the knowledge of our area. Victorian dental therapists were founding members of the College of Oral Health Academics, were ADOHTA conference chairs and led advocacy through the Victorian and the National Oral Health Alliance, the Public Health Association of Australia and Commonwealth workforce and dental policy committees, such as Health Workforce Australia and the National Oral Health Plan.

As an ADTA councillor, Gemma Kennedy led both an association constitution review and development and adoption of its code of ethics, the latter built on those developed by VDTA in 2001–02. Many of the association's activities were led by Victorian members; their contributions to governance, restructures, mission statements, strategic plans and policy positions have left a lasting impact on the profession. The association has benefitted from this collegiality and generosity, and lifelong friendships and networks have been forged. We now lead our own profession through research, education, policy and advocacy.

### Julie Barker

Cat. 290 Australian Dental Therapists Association, **ADTA badge**, c. 1990, metal, enamel. Loaned by Debra Brighton.



## TRAILBLAZING DENTAL HYGIENE IN VICTORIA

Since its inception 50 years ago, the profession of dental therapy has had a transformative impact on health dental care. Consequently, I am proud to have been involved in the pioneering efforts that led to establishing dental hygiene in Victoria.

My journey into dental hygiene began as a dental nurse in the School Dental Service in Bairnsdale, Victoria, where I worked closely with a graduate dentist from Adelaide who introduced me to the profession of dental hygiene. I took the significant step to leave home to relocate for the two-year training course at Gilles Plains College, in Adelaide. Upon returning to Victoria, in 1988, as a newly qualified dental hygienist, I was faced with the challenge of the profession not being recognised and I was unable to work legally. The Victorian dental profession was initially apprehensive about this new profession, and there was little support to develop legislation. Dental hygiene was seen as a newfound dental profession that potentially threatened the dental industry as they knew it.

In the beginning, there was a small group of ‘dental disruptors’, which included Elizabeth Wells, Denise Galuoppo, Leah Littlejohn, Angela Fundak, Faye Spencer and Debbie Day. Together we worked to effect change. Despite obstacles and scepticism, our advocacy, letter writing and submissions to Parliament paid off—our dedication and determination finally leading to the recognition and acceptance of dental hygienists.

The legislation that created dental therapists in Victoria in 1972 provided the basis for amendments that established dental hygienists in 1989. These milestones were pivotal in shaping our profession, although they limited us to working only in practices with a dentist on site and they prevented our names appearing on practice stationery and external signage.

The acceptance of dental hygiene as a profession in Victoria has paved the way for providing comprehensive preventive care and improved oral health outcomes, and contributed to overall wellbeing in the community. While our journey continues, I am grateful for the progress we have made and am honoured to have been part of the trailblazing efforts that have shaped dental hygiene in Victoria.

### Paulette Smith

Cat. 225 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne, **Diploma in Oral Health Therapy students, first cohort**, 1997, photograph. HFA4421, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.



## UNIVERSITY EDUCATION FOR THE ORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

In 1976, the dental therapy course was introduced in Victoria and run under the auspices of the Department of Health. At that time, therapists were awarded a Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy). In 1993–94, the Victorian Government decided to transfer the training of dental therapists to the tertiary education sector through a tender process.

Professor David G Pennington, then vice chancellor of the University of Melbourne, was approached by the Department of Health and Community Services to seek the university's interest in delivering the Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy). Professor Pennington stated the following in his response:

before seeking to change the existing arrangements for the School of Dental Therapy, it is essential that we consider any proposed changes in the broader context of the community's longer term needs for school dental therapists and dental hygienists.<sup>1</sup>

As a result, the department commissioned a working group to outline the future workforce needs for dental therapy within Dental Health Services; to examine the training needs for dental therapy; to have regard for the role and training needs for dental hygienists in Victoria; and to examine the likely relationship between dental therapy and dental hygiene training. The working group considered these issues and recommended:

a dental therapy course should be maintained and that a dental hygiene course be introduced, preferably both in the same tertiary institution. Both courses should have a common core component followed by a flexible dual track for dental therapy and dental hygiene students.<sup>2</sup>

The qualification was retained as a two-year diploma-level program and renamed the Diploma in Oral Health Therapy, with two streams: dental therapy and dental hygiene. The first intake occurred in February 1996, under the auspices of the University of Melbourne School of Dental Science. This course saw the introduction of dental hygiene education for the first time in Victoria. In 2005, the diploma was upgraded to the three-year Bachelor of Oral Health. Graduates from this degree are dually qualified in dental therapy and dental hygiene and graduate as 'oral health therapists'.

### Professor Hanny Calache

1. Department of Health and Community Services, Victoria, 'Dental Therapy Workforce Needs for Dental Health Services', 1993.  
2. *ibid.*

Cat. 234 *The Herald Sun* (est. 1855), 'New teeth into the subject', 8 Aug. 1997, paper. HFA4710, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

Article announcing the first university-trained oral health therapists to complete their course.



**Easy:** Andrew Brown, 7, gets the all-clear from dental therapist Virginia Deigan. Picture: THEO FAKOS

## New teeth into the subject

**THE** first group of university trained oral health therapists will complete their course at the University of Melbourne this year.

Previously they trained at a Health Department training school.

Victorian Dental Therapists Association president Julie Satur said they would work in the community as dental therapists in school dental services and as dental hygienists in private dental practices.

"It is the first time they have

**By HELEN CARTER,**  
medical reporter

been trained in a dual outcome course alongside dentists," Ms Satur said during Dental Health Week.

"When all members of the dental team are trained in the same place the quality of care is bound to be better."

She said dental therapists provided less complex types of treatment, allowing dentists to focus on more complex treatment

which was increasingly being required as more people kept their teeth longer.

Therapists do check-ups, fillings, X-rays, fluoride treatments and dental health education for children.

Hygienists focus on gum care, cleaning, polishing and orthodontic assistance.

Health Minister Rob Knowles will open the expanded public dental service in Springvale today. It will open to the public from tomorrow.



## BRIDGING TRAINING, BUILDING ORAL HEALTH THERAPY

In 1999, the University of Melbourne introduced its first lateral-entry bridging course for a Diploma in Oral Health Therapy (Hygiene), from which I graduated 12 months later. Entry required a three-hour exam, returning us to our 'bible' from dental therapy training, refreshing us on dental pathology, oral hygiene, radiography, local anaesthesia, anatomy, histology and medical conditions. On accepting the offer, we committed to full fees of approximately \$23,000.

London-trained hygienist Mark Gussy ran the course with great passion. We were privileged to have periodontists Drs Tom Higgins and Werner Bischof as teachers, with their wealth of experience, as well as undergraduate periodontists Sarah Orme and Fritz Heitz. Julie Satur would run regular lectures and it was a thrill being tutored by her, having trained together in the first dental therapy program offered in Victoria. The dedicated Hanny Calache ran lectures until 5pm sharp each Friday! It was exciting to be training when Eric Reynolds launched the renowned remineralising product Recaldent, developed with his students.

The course textbook was by Darby and Walsh, and a model teeth set was used for practice, removing sub- and supragingival calculus (nail polish). The challenging assignments were helped by studying old exam papers sourced from the Brownless Biomedical Library; referencing was new to me, and the external exams took some getting used to. Clinically, we treated, under supervision, healthcare cardholders at the Dental Hospital.

Patient management was sheer joy, and dealing with adults was complex and exciting. The practical experience I had gained as a dental therapist was an advantage, and we are better hygienists for being dual qualified. The dental hygiene demonstrators had expert knowledge and brought their international training to our learning. They had spent years lobbying for Victoria to offer training for hygienists.

Dental hygienists have made a huge contribution to oral health in the community and in private and specialist practices, and research proves that preventive oral health is the gateway to overall health and wellbeing. We strive for greater employment as primary healthcare providers in community settings, to provide for those who struggle to access private dental care.

### Rhonda Kremmer

Cat. 247 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne, **Academic staff at the graduation ceremony of dental therapists and dental hygienists, Diploma in Oral Health Therapy, 1999**, photograph. HFA4619, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

Left to right, back row: Werner Bischof, Mike Morgan. Middle row: Jack Gerchman, Mark Gussy, Laura Baltutis, Hanny Calache (course convenor). Front row: Elizabeth Senior, Julie Owen, Julie Satur.



## NAVIGATING THE COMPLEX PATH FROM DIPLOMA TO DEGREE

Introduced in 1996, the Diploma in Oral Health Therapy (DipOHT) at the University of Melbourne was a successful, innovative model for integrating dental therapy and hygiene educational programs. Other universities followed suit, albeit with different formats. In 1998, the University of Queensland introduced a bachelor degree program and in 2002, the University of Adelaide did, both leading to a 'dual' qualification in the two professions. This national trend away from diplomas, and the University of Melbourne's aspiration to ensure the economic viability of its programs, stimulated discussion among its DipOHT team to plan a combined dental therapy and hygiene degree.

Combining the disciplines was contentious in Victoria, and influential professional bodies remained unconvinced. They were, however, more amenable to arguments relating to degree status of professional health programs. Agreement was eventually achieved on this count, but not on combining the oral health clinical disciplines into a single award. This resulted in introducing, in 2005, the Bachelor of Oral Health (Dental Therapy) and Bachelor of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene). Students enrolled in first year of these programs as the final cohort of the DipOHT moved into second (final) year.

All was not settled. Following the second intake into the single-outcome bachelor programs, the student body approached senior staff to make a case for combining the two degrees into one dual-outcome course. This required the agreement of all students in both years of both programs; the objection of a single student would have made the proposal impossible. The student body, convinced that the move would create parity of qualification and opportunity with other Australian programs, mobilised to internally lobby their peers. Full agreement was achieved. Staff and students worked together to design and implement a transitional program that would allow students to meet the learning outcomes and competencies of both clinical streams. This program and the integrated Bachelor of Oral Health was approved by the university's Academic Board and recognised by the Australian Dental Council. Due to the swift move to a combined bachelor program, the two single-outcome degrees are likely the only degree programs offered by the university that have no graduates!

### Professors Mark Gussy and Mike Morgan

Cat. 268 Classic Studios Pty Ltd Photography (Melbourne); School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne, **Graduation, Diploma in Oral Health Therapy, students with Minister of Health Bronwyn Pike**, 2004, photograph. HFA4523, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE  
SCHOOL OF DENTAL SCIENCE  
DIPLOMA IN ORAL HEALTH THERAPY GRADUATION 2004

PHOTOGRAPHY BY © CLASSIC STUDIOS PTY LTD™ PH: 03 9419 9500

## A REFLECTION ON THE POWER OF PEDAGOGY

We sat in the dimly lit Geoffrey Wylie theatre. It was our final class in a long and tiring day in the second semester of our first year of the Bachelor of Oral Health. The room was illuminated only by the twin projectors displaying slides for what many of us deemed at the time a tedious and dull subject: research methods. It lacked the direct focus on teeth and the excitement of our practical subjects, but we all agreed that one factor made it bearable: the enthusiasm of Professor Julie Satur.

Professor Satur introduced scientific methodology to us. While some students with backgrounds in science and other disciplines were already familiar with its concepts, it wasn't until well into second year that I truly understood what things like 'meta-analysis' and 'randomised controlled trial' meant beyond mere definitions. Amid all the information delivered during those classes, a statement by Professor Satur really came to shape how I approached university work, and life in general, too: 'anecdotal evidence is not strong evidence'.

On the surface, this statement is unremarkable, but it carried a message that urged us to become critical thinkers. It served as a reminder to not accept statements at face value and to engage in proactive reading of scientific literature. It encouraged me to seek independent confirmation for anecdotal claims or to discover the best practice through my own research.

The Bachelor of Oral Health has always placed great emphasis on evidence-based practice. This principle was ingrained in us—a philosophy that we would take into our careers. It bestows legitimacy on our relatively young profession, ensuring that our practices are grounded in the same rigorous evidence that guides dentists. It also instilled in us a commitment to continuous learning, recognising that our approach to patient care must evolve as new evidence emerges, shaping the landscape of best practice.

**Ronald Tan**

**Graduation, Bachelor of Oral Health, School of Dental Science, 2009.**

Includes Michelle Grouis, Ronald Tan, Kelly Brushett, Chandra Setiwan, Jacqui Tsakmakis, Beth Irvin, Maisa Chowk, Caitlin Wainrib.



## ADDING ADULT CARE TO THE DENTAL THERAPY SCOPE

Decades of advocacy at state and federal level enabled dental and oral health therapists to autonomously provide restorative care for people of all ages. La Trobe University introduced this teaching to its undergraduate program and the University of Melbourne developed a graduate clinical-learning pathway.

We offer three reflections on adult scope teaching and learning:

It took years of dedicated effort and advocacy to shape curriculum design to represent adult scope education in the University of Melbourne's Graduate Certificate in Dental Therapy (Advanced Clinical Practice). I recall heightened anxiety throughout the course accreditation process and an overwhelming sense of relief upon receiving a successful report. Despite encountering strong political opposition from certain quarters, our vision had come to fruition.

A decade later, the program has earned accreditation in New Zealand, and it continues to attract robust enrolments here and has adapted to the changing landscape of a hybrid-delivery model. A concurrent Continuing Professional Development program provides educational flexibility for practitioners. Leading and meeting the profession's needs through education is immensely gratifying. (Brenda Ryan)

Undertaking the first postgraduate program for dental therapists in adult scope entailed a huge learning curve for me. Since then, I have honed my diagnostic and restorative skills in treating patients with complex medical, dental and social histories. Today, I teach and mentor dental and oral health therapists completing the course and love the opportunity to influence students. (Joh Lazaro)

Why do adult scope? After 30 years of parents asking to see me in the clinic after I had seen their children, I decided to challenge my clinical skills and invigorate my career. Online learning, due to the pandemic, was an additional challenge, but the support of staff and other students made adapting my skills to the adult scope component of clinical practice enjoyable. I am thriving on the balance this has brought to my work. I was advised that working with adults is treating the inner five-year-old who had a bad experience—just with more complex medical histories! It's true, and something dental and oral health therapists have always been good at. (Alison Lewis)

### Brenda Ryan, Joh Lazaro and Alison Lewis

Cat. 229 *The Herald Sun* (est. 1855), 'Death fear in dental row', 20 Feb. 1997, paper. HFA4492, gift of Victorian Dental Therapist Association, 2023, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

Article on plans for a pilot program in which dental therapists would provide treatment to some adults through community health centres.

# Death fear in dental row

PATIENTS could die if the role of dental therapists was extended, dentists claimed yesterday.

Anne-Marie Vincent, Australian Dental Association state president, said it would be dangerous to allow therapists to do fillings, extractions, give injections and perform basic orthodontic work for public dental patients.

But therapists said extending their role from treating children in the school dental service to treating adults would only benefit patients.

The *Herald Sun* revealed yesterday that the Victorian and NSW governments plan to test the new system this year.

Julie Satur, Victorian Dental Therapists Association vice-president, said there had been no question about the quality of their work for 20 years.

By HELEN CARTER,  
medical reporter

"Dental disease has been significantly lowered by dental therapists' work and this pilot wants to apply the success of that model to the adult sector where the need is huge," she said.

Ms Satur said therapists were tertiary-trained professionals with a two-year university diploma. But Dr Vincent said therapists were not trained in diagnostic skills and ran a higher risk of missing things.

John Dalziel, from the Salvation Army, said the plan showed some people were seen as second-class citizens. "The government's saying those who have free dental help don't deserve the best," he said.

EDITORIAL, Page 18

## NURTURING SOCIAL JUSTICE VALUES IN ORAL HEALTH THERAPY

The discipline of oral health therapy was a little-known health profession when I graduated from the Melbourne Dental School in 2008. The first PhD completion in the discipline occurred only six years earlier, in 2002, though since then Professor Julie Satur has said that now a steady stream of dental and oral health therapists at both masters and doctoral levels, with research in public health policy, health promotion, behavioural sciences and clinical education, lead the development of our discipline and profession.

I was fortunate to engage in oral health research as a curriculum requirement in my third (final) year, sparking my interest in the art of evidence-based oral health policy and practice. This has enriched my understanding of the professional ethics of health practice beyond clinical dentistry. Our discipline was founded on the social justice imperative to improve the oral health of underserved populations, and alignment of professional and personal values in social justice is integral to many oral health therapy postgraduates, as is indicated in the range of research areas noted above.

Oral health therapy augments commonly held social values around ethics, justice and equity, as is played out through diverse careers beyond clinical dentistry. They include health services management, regulation, academia, public health, clinical education, policy and advocacy. All contribute to unmet population health needs and challenge the paternalism of dentistry, which has long dominated dental therapy in Victoria. Through leadership, perseverance and self-determination, many dental and oral health therapists have set the bar high, fostering a curiosity to ‘see more, do more, be more and lead more’.

Many in the profession have embraced the broader role of oral health therapy practice by being active contributors to population health through health promotion and addressing the social and commercial determinants of health from an oral health perspective. Oral health therapists are uniquely positioned to influence the way the healthcare system can support oral health that it is person-centred and value-based. Its graduates are trained to address these challenges, including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, with cultural safety at the heart of care. The future of the oral health therapy discipline is bright.

### Tan Minh Nguyen

Tan Minh Nguyen, with patient David, providing instruction on teeth cleaning, 2023.



## BREAKING DOWN COGNITIVE BARRIERS TO ORAL HEALTH

I do not believe that people inherently fail to value their teeth. However, I have certainly seen people question their own values after experiencing difficulties. I have seen patients fail to floss, then report that they dislike flossing; I have seen patients lose a tooth, then report ‘hating’ their teeth. They attempt good health, experience difficulty, then lose motivation.

Although it seems illogical, this response is an ingrained defence mechanism. It is the same as losing at Monopoly, then deciding you do not like Monopoly! It is our human way of avoiding future failure. But it breaks my heart to see young adults give up on their teeth like this—to see them struggle with maintenance and attribute their difficulties to lost motivation. This has made me want to understand why people struggle with health behaviours. We spend so much time educating patients about the benefits of oral hygiene, but what prevents them from following their plans? I believe that understanding these factors and coaching patients to understand and cope with situational barriers can prevent misguided losses of motivation.

After graduating from the Bachelor of Oral Health program at the University of Melbourne in 2007, I undertook a Bachelor of Psychology and Master of Philosophy in Dental Science. I am now completing my PhD at the University of Oslo, where I lecture in psychology, public health and research methods. I have started a branch of research aiming to bridge the gap between cognitive psychology and dental therapy, to better understand mental barriers to behavioural change and how we can use this knowledge in the clinic. I am specifically interested in the cognitive functions that help redirect attention towards tasks, and how improved cognitive skills may empower patients to fulfil their oral hygiene plans. Collaborating with psychologists and oral health clinicians, I am building a cross-discipline future focused on refining and strengthening the evidence that supports our role as effective health coaches. I see a future where cognitive training and developing patients’ self-control may be integral to health promotion efforts. It is anticipated that these skills will have widespread relevance to the general health of younger populations.

**Adam Rogers**

**Adam Rogers, lecturer and PhD candidate, at the University of Oslo, Norway, 2023.** Photograph by Marie Lindeman Johansen, OD/UiO.



## REFLECTING ON THE SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

Dental therapists were employed exclusively by the state's School Dental Service to prevent dental disease and provide clinical care for children through fixed dental clinics and mobile vans. Treatment services were specific to children's development and included oral health education, preventative work and early intervention, as well as check-ups, x-rays, fillings and extractions.

Dental therapists were the backbone of dental care for Victoria's highest-needs children. We would bring in groups of prep-grade children to 'ride' in the dental chair to get them used to it. We also tried to reform school canteens to reduce kids' sugar consumption. We changed the culture around oral health in schools. In the 1990s, demobilisation of our services occurred to reduce the associated costs, with dental therapists moving mainly into clinics in community health centres and hospitals.

Our years in the School Dental Service elicit many memories. One grade 5 patient had a cleft palate that had gone undiagnosed; she thought it was normal for people to have food and drink passing through this cavity. She was finally able to have this diagnosed and remedied.

We treated many refugee children from Romania. One little girl of about six was so scared and had so many decayed teeth that her first check-up was done on top of the monkey bars in the school playground. Many frightened children came to us after others had been unable to treat them. It was our job as dental therapists to help them get the care they needed. A real skill we bring to dentistry is helping children to cope with dental care without fear.

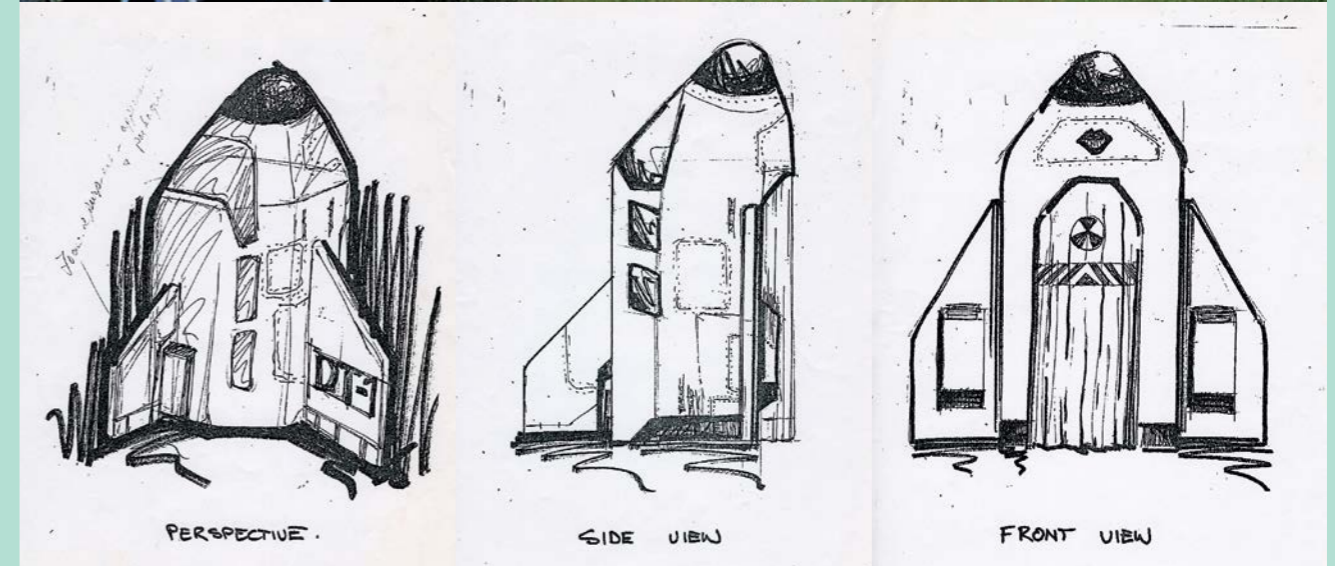
For me, Jacqui, my inspiration to become a dental therapist came from my own first dental experience. In grade 4 and nine years old, I attended the dental van and received an IAN block, an amalgam restoration and an extraction. I got so much attention and praise, I fell in love with that dental team and told my mum I would become a dental therapist! After 26 years in the profession, I now mentor a new generation and provide positive dental experiences to children via Smile Squad.

### Aimee Brond and Jacqui Corbett

Top: Dental therapist Andrea Riccioni (née Butters) at a primary school with Plaque Shuttle, c. 1988.

Bottom: Cat. 167 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria, **Concept drawings for the Plaque Shuttle**, 1988, paper. HFA4657, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

The Plaque Shuttle was a tent in the shape of a space shuttle. In the tent's darkened interior children could see the plaque on their teeth under UV light with the help of a mirror and fluorescent disclosing solution.



## CARING FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Dental caries is a common childhood disease, affecting almost half of all Australian children aged five to ten years. Many children start school with a high incidence of dental disease, and they are often the most challenging to treat, due to their age. The Monash Preschool Dental program, which evolved into Smiles for Miles, was designed to encourage preschool children and their families to improve early oral health through work in preschools and childcare, building oral health literacy with early learning teachers and maternal and child health nurses. Led by dental therapists, these programs focused on engaging parents through the message 'clean well, eat well and drink well'. During the 1990s, the Country Kids program was available to families in rural communities, with dental therapists working in healthcare and early learning settings.

Many parents are unaware of the importance of early dental visits, so it is essential to integrate oral health with broader childhood health services. Outreach dental screening programs emerged to enable families with preschool children to navigate dental services. In the metropolitan west, children attending supported playgroups, kindergarten and childcare centres were introduced to dental health messages and a simple screening program from the early 2000s, with appointments made for children at a nearby Footscray clinic. This program, staffed by dental therapists, reached out to many families who would not otherwise have engaged with dental services. Therapists' careful and gentle management of child patients, a hallmark of the profession, has helped many an anxious parent and child cope and become regular dental attendees.

As a long-term practitioner in the Counting Smiles program, I enjoy seeing the delight on the faces of preschool children when the puppet and giant toothbrush are used to demonstrate toothbrushing. Providing new mothers with information about healthy feeding and eating habits, toothbrushing techniques to help children brush and maintain good oral health practice has been an important part of this role. It is so rewarding when another child is dentally fit before they begin school.

Catherine Furey

Cat. 219 *The Herald Sun* (est. 1855), 'Children's smiles are getting brighter', 25 Mar. 1996, paper. HFA4490, gift of Victorian Dental Therapist Association, 2023, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

Article about children's improved dental health as one of the great public health success stories of the past 20 years.

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ADVERTISEMENT

Herald Sun, Monday, March 25, 1996

# Children's smiles are getting brighter

**T**HE improvement in the dental health of children has been one of the great public health success stories of the past 20 years.

Says John McLennan, Manager of Dental Health in the Department of Health and Community Services: "In the mid-1970s, 12-year-olds had more than six teeth affected by dental decay."

"Twelve-year-olds today have less than one tooth affected — a 600 per cent improvement."

Public dental health expert Dr Martin Dooland says that the improvement is the result of several factors including water fluoridation, the effects of fluoride toothpaste and the increased availability of dental services.

The Victorian School Dental Service (SDS) has been an important provider of these dental services for primary school children.

The Service started in 1922 but only began to provide comprehensive care in the late 1970s when dental therapists were introduced.

Dental therapists are trained for two years to provide the majority of dental services required by children.

Under the supervision of

dentists they can examine children, place dental sealants, undertake fillings and extract deciduous teeth. Treatment beyond their scope is referred to dentists.

"With their excellent skills for working with apprehensive children, dental therapists encourage lifelong habits of good dental health," says Sue Sestan, Principal Dental Therapist.

"The importance of diet, oral hygiene and regular dental visits is emphasised directly with the children, with their parents and through dental health promotion as part of the school curriculum," said Ms Sestan.

"It is rewarding to show anxious children and their parents that a dental visit can be a pleasant occasion".

Chief Dental Officer Dr John Rogers says the use of dental sealants is an important part of the SDS preventive approach.

"These protective coatings applied to the grooves of the back molar teeth protect these surfaces from dental decay," he said.

"The SDS provides care for almost 70 per cent of eligible Victorian primary school children.

Most children are examined every 24 months because most children do not need to be seen as often as in the past due to



**Educating children:** The importance of diet, oral hygiene and regular dental visits is explained to children by dental therapists like Libby Meurs.

improvements in dental health.

However, there is still a significant number of children who are at higher risk of dental disease.

"These children need to be seen more frequently and are offered care every 12 months.

"The necessity of targeting care in this way is shown by the fact that 25 per cent of 12-year-olds have 75 per cent of all the decay," said Dr Rogers.

Under the SDS almost 250,000 children are provided care from 70

mobile vans and 43 fixed clinics.

The value of services provided in the 1994-95 financial year was \$18.5 million which exceeded the direct costs of \$12.7 million by 46 per cent.

Each child currently under SDS care costs about \$50. "This is a good community investment which will reduce extensive and expensive treatment later in adolescence and adulthood," said Mr McLennan.

Children who regularly visit a

private dentist are encouraged to continue and do not need to use the SDS.

• The SDS has shown marked productivity improvements over the past 10 years.

The number of courses of dental care provided has increased by 33 per cent from 104,000 courses of care in 1988 to 138,000 courses in 1995. The value of services provided has increased by 66 per cent (inflation adjusted) from \$11.2 million to \$18.56 million.



## UNLEASHING DENTAL THERAPY IN PRIVATE PRACTICE

The role of the dental therapist in Australia has undergone a remarkable evolution, from ‘auxiliary’ to independent and autonomous practitioner. Legislative changes that came into effect in 2000 have allowed dental therapists to engage in the workforce beyond the School Dental Service—in private practice. This ushered in a period of expansion, especially in rural areas, but some believed the role was misunderstood, resulting in under-utilisation by both patients and fellow dental professionals. Persistence and changes to tertiary education leading to dual-qualified oral health therapists overcame some of the challenges, enabling dental and oral health therapists to practice as clinicians with autonomy, independence and increased scope. Over time acceptance has grown, and today private general and specialist practices are the majority employer, and dental and oral health therapists also address market gaps through innovative approaches and in their own practices.

In my practice and many others, the therapist role has evolved to frontline clinician, providing triage services for emergency patients and being the first port of call for new patients in the clinic. This, in turn, establishes ongoing professional relationships with patients as their regular dental care provider. Recent developments have allowed dental therapists to deliver progressively comprehensive care for people of all ages, increasing the capacity and productivity of other dental practitioners in the team. It has also allowed for greater opportunities, including practice ownership.

I took a leap and established my own practice in East Malvern in 2019. A growing three-chair clinic, it now employs three dentists, a prosthodontist, an oral health therapist and seven support staff. We actively engage with the community and now service more than 3000 patients in the greater Melbourne area.

My role model and mentor was fellow oral health therapist Caitlin Wainrib (1989–2020), who broke new ground in 2015 when she established her own practice to fill a niche in dental health care through her outreach service, Mobile Dental Clinics Australia. Her business has grown to cover Victoria and Tasmania, delivering services in aged care, childcare and workplace settings. The fleet of 10 dental vans is manned by eight oral health therapists and eight dentists.

### Edward Butler-Bromage

**Eddie Butler-Bromage, Bachelor of Oral Health, at Victorian Dental Group, 2021.** Photograph by Swagger Photography.

**Caitlin Wainrib with a Mobile Dental Clinics Australia van, 2020.**



## A MOST REWARDING ASPECT OF DENTAL PRACTICE

Dental therapists, and later oral health therapists, have often worked in areas of particular need, beginning with the extension of School Dental Service into special education settings and then preschools. After 2000, therapists moved into wider settings, such as the Royal Children's Hospital dental clinic, including cleft lip and palate and behaviour-modification clinics; dental oncology at Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute; special needs dentistry at Dental Health Services Victoria; prisons; drug rehabilitation; and private specialist practices. Working with such patients is an enriching career choice that leaves a sense of enormous satisfaction at the end of day, as these reflections illustrate.

After assisting a 22-year-old recovered substance abuser suffering from anxiety and dental phobia, I felt an immense sense of achievement. Particularly, when she stated that she was no longer 'scared' of dental treatment and looked forward to future appointments. At first presentation she requested care under general anaesthetic, but with patience, compassion and support she was able to have a full upper clearance and lower dentition restoration in the chair. I witnessed her five-year-old son exclaim, 'you look so beautiful Mummy'. (Sharon Richardson)

Working at the Melbourne Youth Justice Centre was challenging. Clients varied from those with teeth resembling times of pre-fluoridation to rebellious adolescents needing little more than kindness, empathy and compassion. One client was a 'frequent flyer' at the centre. I asked him why he was back again; he responded, 'I have no home, no bed and it's cold outside. Here, I have clean sheets and three meals a day.' I did an examination and cleaned his teeth again and sent him on his way.

In 2017, riot police stormed the centre overnight, as up to 20 prisoners had broken out via a secure roof cavity in the healthcare section. Staff were threatened and there was a stand-off. Medical, allied health and administrative areas within the section were vandalised and trashed. The only area not touched was the dental surgery. There was expensive dental equipment that clients could have smashed with ease, but they left it alone. Management was amazed. The respect the inmates had for the dental services provided was clear. (Rayleen Formosa)

### Sharon Richardson and Rayleen Formosa

Palak Mahajan, Zeyu (Helen) Li and Su Huyn (Amy) Kim, third-year students of the Bachelor of Oral Health, Melbourne Dental School, University of Melbourne, 2014. They are here providing outreach dental examinations and oral health promotion with the Royal Flying Doctor service, Wimmera/Mallee.

Marzia Danesh, student of the Bachelor of Oral Health, Melbourne Dental School, University of Melbourne, 2014. Students undertake a research project with a public health focus.



## LEADING ORAL HEALTH PROMOTION

Dental and oral health therapists provide an essential service to some of the most vulnerable members of our community, and over the last 50 years have built on the principles of health promotion.

As a graduate dental therapist in Ballarat, I saw the impact workplaces and environments had on individuals' health. I recall receiving a large bag of chocolates in appreciation for extensive dental work carried out on a child whose parent worked at the local chocolate factory. This experience was one of many that led to a career in oral health promotion.

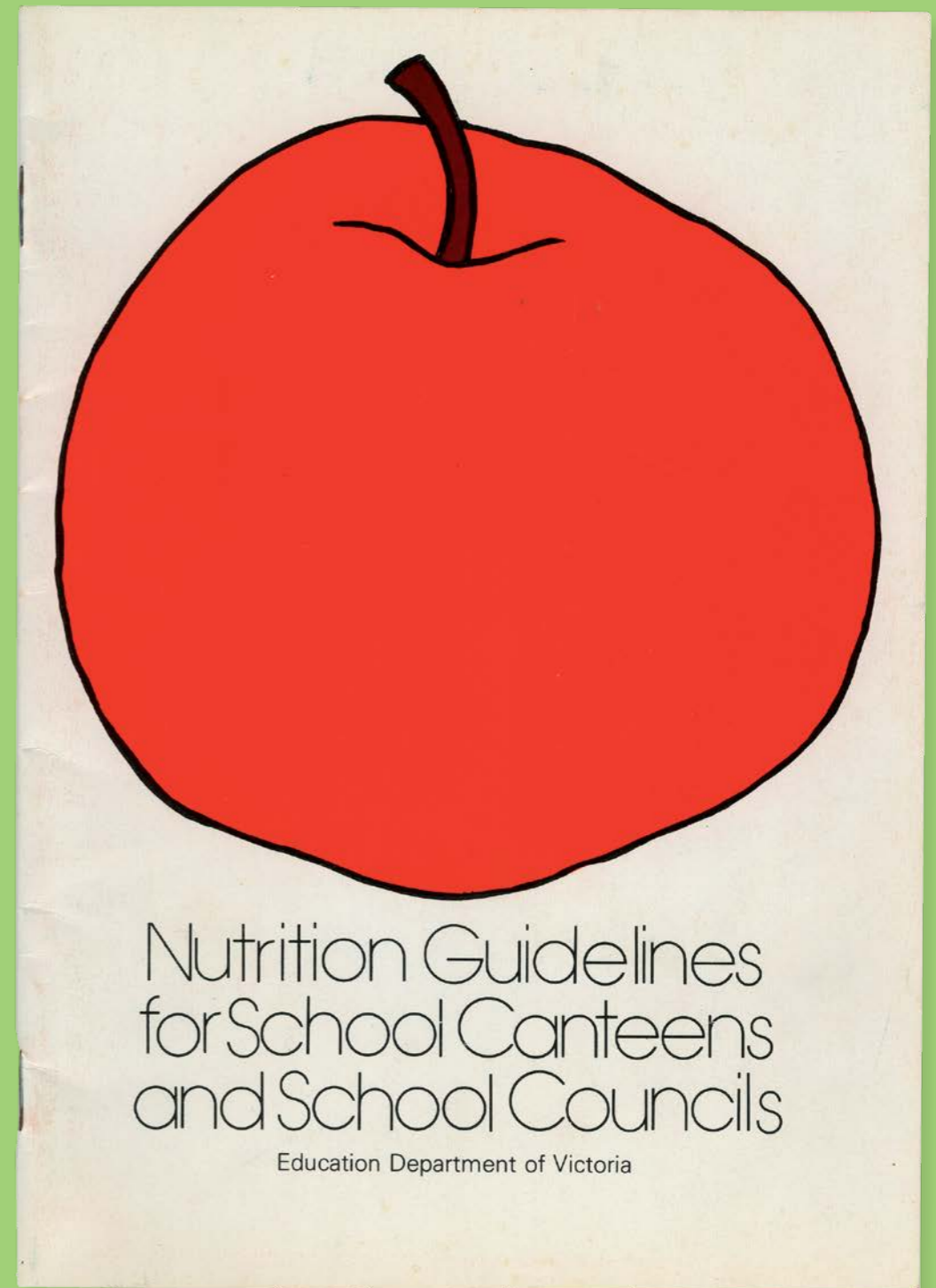
Dental therapy has a strong foundation in oral health promotion, which is introduced in the undergraduate program. Health education, as preparation for school classroom lessons, was core to the original dental therapy course and it has evolved into a key stream in the bachelor programs, with student-led, community-based oral health promotion partnership programs. Dental therapists have led many programs, including on mouthguard use in sports, parent and child education, toothbrushing programs in schools and childcare, and smoking cessation.

Many dental and oral health therapists conduct outreach screening and treatment in kindergartens, schools and aged-care facilities as part of broader prevention programs. Others, in collaboration with Dental Health Services Victoria's health promotion team, support partnership work with maternal and child health nurses, diabetes educators, midwives, pharmacists and other professionals to embed oral health promotion in everyday practice.

Dental therapists were the first to complete postgraduate education and research in oral health promotion, and since the 1990s there has been an evidenced-based approach in health promotion. This has led to its inclusion in the National Oral Health Plan and Victoria's oral health and health promotion plans. Many in the profession have contributed to the leadership, consultations, development and delivery of these plans, both locally and nationally. The National Oral Health Promotion Steering Group, which was established in 2006, continues to have strong dental therapist representation in its membership and in convenor roles. In collaboration with others, dental therapists have contributed to the innovation and transformation of health promotion in Victoria.

### Susanne Sofronoff

Cat. 97 Education Department of Victoria, *Nutrition Guidelines for School Canteens and School Councils*, 1980, card, paper. HFA4433, gift of Glenys Barnes, 2023, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.



## DENTAL THERAPISTS IN REMOTE AND ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

Since their inception, dental therapists have been the practitioners who, as a proportion of their numbers, have most commonly worked in rural, remote and Aboriginal communities. They have delivered dental services and oral health promotion to some of Australia's smallest and most isolated communities, where often they are the only dental practitioner. The addition of adult scope restorative and oral health therapy has broadened their role.

Dental and oral health therapists have long had an interest in oral health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; all three of Victoria's Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation dental services employ dental or oral health therapists, and many Victorian dental therapists have provided services to communities via the Remote Area Health Corps programs. Through the inclusion of Indigenous health in curricula, health promotion and clinical placements, dental and oral health therapy programs have helped build graduates' skills and develop clinical services for communities, including fluoride varnish, outreach screening and mouthguard programs. The Melbourne Dental School's bachelor program has partnered with Northern Territory Oral Health Services, Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, in New South Wales, and Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative, in Victoria.

I've always been interested in understanding the social determinants of health and their widespread impacts. A pivotal experience in East Arnhem Land during my final BOH year ignited a passion for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This work has been transformative for me, not just in clinical terms, but also as a person.

I have lived and worked in Aboriginal communities in remote NSW and regional Victoria, finding job satisfaction in providing dental care for people who have had limited access to services. The challenges have been significant but outweighed by the rewards. Learning and seeing parts of this country that not many Australians have experienced, developing my knowledge and helping communities are things I will be forever grateful for. These experiences have underscored the substantial gap in oral health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in Australia. (Eliza Collins)

### Eliza Collins

*Munydjutjpu Dhäwu Oral Health Bush medicine poster*, c. 2020.

This poster in Yolngu Matha and English was on display at Yirrkala Dental Clinic, East Arnhem Land, in 2023.

## Munydjutjpu Dhäwu Oral Health Bush Medicine

### Nhä dhuwal munydjutjtja? What is munydjutj?

Munydjutjtja dhuwal dharpa yurr ñayi dhuwal mirritjin.

*Munydjutj is a plant but it is also a medicine.*

Munydjutjkuny walu rarranhdharrmirriy.

*Munydjutj flowers late in the dry season.*

Munydjutjthuny ñuli gung'a'yun yolñuny ñunhi walal ñuli jirra wo dhorukthu rirrikthun.

*The munydjutj stem can help treat toothaches.*

### Nhaltjan dhu yolñuy djäma munydjutj?

1. Munydjutjku ñhe dhu ñarrum ga ñiltjikurr. Gulkthurr dharpa.



2. Balbalyurr dharpa.



3. Dañarrmarañ dharpa.



4. Wiriny'tjurr dharpa, mãrr ga dhu galña mãrram.



5. Buñbuñmarañ dharpaw galña mãrr ga dhu wiyika' munydjutjku yalñgithirr. Galkun ñhe dhu mãrr ga dhu munydjutj guyiñarrthirr ñãthil.



6. Ñhe dhu djäma munydjutj bala galkana jirrañilnha ñhokal.



## PUTTING THE 'ORAL' INTO PRIMARY HEALTH

Like so many parts of my life, I landed in dental therapy by accident. As a primary school child, I had a dental phobia from which I was liberated by a kind and skilled young dentist. Consequently, I developed a keen interest in dental anatomy and pursued this by drawing teeth and carving them into wax.

I wasn't an exceptional student, but I was curious and determined. The School Dental Service nurtured my interest to better understand the broader context in which I worked. We dental therapists wanted to make a difference through prevention and early intervention, and this became the guiding ethos.

Undertaking postgraduate study, I found the application of theory in the workplace stimulating, and my passion for the profession was fostered through active involvement in the Victorian Dental Therapist Association. These experiences were the beginnings of a career in management and leadership.

The inception of Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV) came with opportunities to undertake more challenging management roles, including those that were long held by dentists. Dental therapists became integral to the success of public dental services, showing themselves to be capable and effective managers. The 1990s and early 2000s was a time of public oral health leadership in Victoria. Inspired by the dental therapists who paved the way with a masters qualification and supported by dentists who recognised the value of dental therapists, I pursued innovation in service management. This engendered my confidence to move from the safety of DHSV to an organisation in which primary health care was the basis for service delivery. I soon realised that the skills and belief in equity I had gained through public oral health were transferrable and sought after. The underlying ethos—to make a difference—has continued to guide my choices of where I would work.

Primary health care is the first level of contact for individuals, the family and community. I now work in community health where primary care is based on the social determinants of health. My foundations in public oral health continue to be my guiding principles.

**Sue Sestan**

Cat. 254 Victorian Dental Therapist Association, *Great Smile! Who Is Your Dental Therapist?* pamphlet, c. 1999, card. HFA4620, gift of Julie Satur, 2023, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

# Great Smile!



*Who Is Your Dental Therapist?*

## ORAL HEALTH EDUCATION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The School Dental Service's mission in Victoria was to promote the health of children to enable them to have a healthy mouth for life.

Dental therapists delivered classroom education until, in 1990, it was found that this was neither efficient nor effective and would be improved if provided by teachers as part of a comprehensive health-education program. Evidence showed there were too few dental therapists to cover classes statewide, that lessons were 'one-off' and infrequent, and that there was no integration into school curricula. To remedy this, 'Dental Health Education: A Curriculum Approach' was developed by Dental Health Services Victoria, launched in 1993 by the Minister for Health and promoted across the state.

The resource was written and led by dental therapist and primary teacher Catherine Thompson and primary school teacher Robin Gilmour. Collaboration with the Department of Education, Victorian primary schools, and education and oral health tertiary institutions ensured the material aligned with curricula, was supported by the education sector and was evidence-based. It was the first time oral health had been mapped to key learning areas in the School Curriculum and Standards Framework.

The Dental Health Promotion Unit, led by dental therapist Kellie-Ann Jolly, managed the production, promotion and marketing of 'Dental Health Education: A Curriculum Approach'. Corporate sponsorship from Colgate and the Australian Dairy Corporation to the tune of \$80,000 was secured to fund the project. It was an outcome never before achieved.

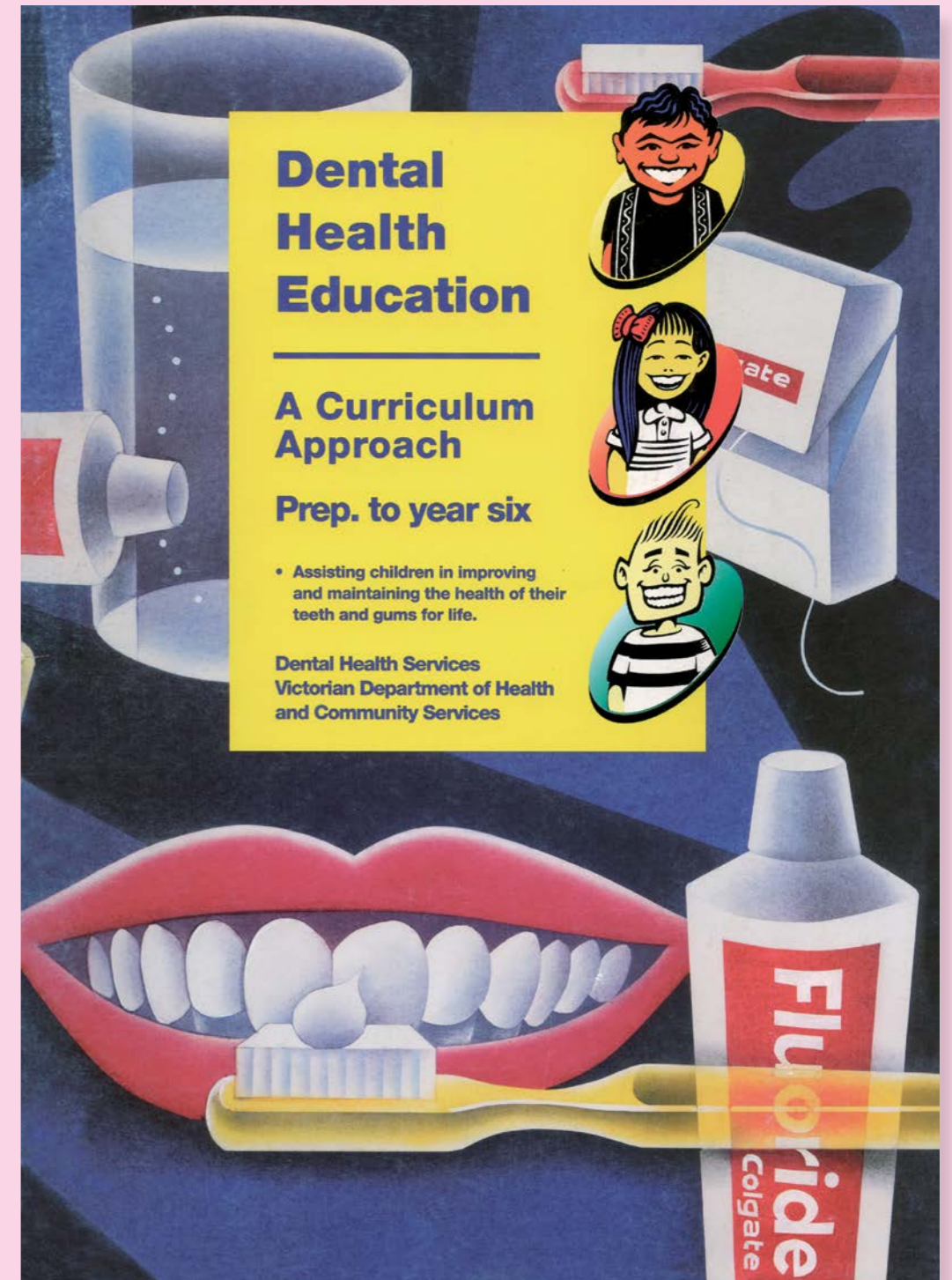
Dental therapists in clinics across Victoria promoted the resource to schools and teachers, encouraging them to implement the program across all grades. This strategy proved successful, with a staggering 80 per cent of primary schools purchasing and using the resource.

Dental therapists thus transformed the way oral health education was delivered to primary school children, building teacher capacity to integrate lessons into curricula. Not only did they lead the development, implementation and evaluation of the resource, but they secured corporate funding to make it happen.

### Kellie-Ann Jolly and Catherine Thompson

Cat. 204 Dental Health Services, Department of Health and Community Services, Victoria, **Dental Health Education: A Curriculum Approach, Prep to Year Six**, 1993, cardboard, paper. HFA4504, gift of Victorian Dental Therapist Association, 2023, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

Activity pack with booklet and worksheets for dental therapists to educate primary school children.



## STARING DOWN INEQUALITY

As the CEO of cohealth, I spent Christmas Day in 2021 manning the phones for our Covid Positive Pathways program, which provided wrap-around physical, mental and social health support for people in Covid isolation. Cohealth ran the service seven days a week, 8am to 8pm, providing over-the-phone assessment, triage, referral and assistance, during which I spoke with many vulnerable people, connecting them to our services and support.

At the end of the day, the young supervisor said, ‘you’re very good at this’. I reflected then that the skills I had learned as a dental therapist had become second nature. I went straight into dental therapist mode, using the skills I had developed to provide dental care for children and work with their parents to explain complex issues, and I drew on the empathy and caring that sat behind those skills. What a great grounding for life this provided, and for health care: the ability to engage, develop rapport quickly, build and maintain relationships, advocate, address inequity and work for change. My background as a clinician has also enabled me to lead in different ways, and has been of immense value in managing health services.

I learned from some inspiring leaders—Jennifer Atkinson, Libby Mears, Wendy Meers, Helen Dickson, Kellie-Ann Jolly, Sue Sestan, Alison Cavanagh—to speak up for the things I believe in. The opportunities I had through the Victorian Dental Therapist Association in clinical leadership and, later, in policy and management built on my dental therapist training and still stand me in good stead. Today we can see dental and oral health therapists in roles unheard of in the early days, when we ‘girls’ were told to expect to work only for a few years before having families. Those in the new generation are managing large health care services, serving as CEOs and board directors, drafting policy in state and national government, or are mayors and politicians.

I am still a dental therapist at my core and maintain my registration. I am proud of my profession and have a great understanding of power, privilege and the social justice values that dental therapy has given me.

### Nicole Bartholomeusz

Nicole Bartholomeusz, CEO of cohealth Melbourne at Yakeen Tharn Aboriginal Children’s Day, 2023. Photograph by cohealth.



## TIMELINE

- |       |   |      |   |      |  |      |   |
|-------|---|------|---|------|--|------|---|
| 1890  | Dental School founded at the University of Melbourne, establishing a three-year bachelor degree for dentists  | 1973 | Victorian ‘girls’ sent to Wellington, Christchurch and Auckland, NZ, to train as dental therapists  | 1995 | Dental Health Services Victoria established  | 2010 | AHPRA established, with national standards for dentistry and oral hygiene practice—all practitioners registered, no patient age limit, structured professional relationships, title protected for dental therapists, hygienists and oral health therapists, no independent practice, only accredited add-on course to extend scope of practice for oral health practitioners (OHPs) |
| 1920  | School Dental Service founded in Victoria   | 1974 | School Dental Service expanded by employing NZ-trained dental therapists; first Dental Therapy School opens in Melbourne  | 1996 | CDHP funding ceases (analysis finds as much as 70 per cent of services could be provided by dental therapists and hygienists)  | 2010 | La Trobe University introduces adult restorative scope into BOH program   |
| 1920s | Dental hygiene established as a discipline in the USA   | 1977 | First Victorian-trained dental therapists graduate (1976 intake); Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA) founded   | 1996 | Dental hygiene training begins in Victoria; dental therapist training moves to a two-year University of Melbourne Diploma in Oral Health Therapy in dental therapy or dental hygiene (with an additional year for oral health therapy)             | 2011 | Health Workforce Australia initiates scope of practice review—recommends removal of age limit for therapists and OHPs’ independent practice   |
| 1920s | School dental nurses (therapists) introduced in New Zealand (NZ)  | 1989 | First dental hygienist legislation enacted (prescription, supervision, direction and control); dental therapist regulations reviewed—permanent tooth extractions removed and chair-side assisting and supervision added to dental therapist regulations | 1998 | <i>Dentists Act 1972</i> (Vic.) review begins  | 2012 | Increased federal funding for public dental programs; national partnership agreements with states   |
| 1910  | <i>Dental Act 1910</i> (Vic.) passed to list qualified dentists and ‘recorded’ men (apprenticeship pathway)   | 1994 | Commonwealth Dental Health Program (CDHP) funding established; first publicly funded adult services   | 2000 | <i>Dental Practice Act 1999</i> (Vic.) is passed—dental therapists and dental hygienists registered, no employment limits, can own practices, mixed board appointed by minister includes two consumers, lawyer, dental therapist and five dentists | 2013 | Parliamentary inquiry into adult dental services—recommends wider use of OHPs; University of Melbourne postgraduate course in adult restorative scope begins  |
| 1933  | First monopoly practice medical Act in Victoria passed, with dentistry included   | 1994 | <i>Dentists Act 1972</i> amended—greater use of dental therapists in public-health dentistry and the term ‘School’ removed  | 2002 | First codes of practice for dental therapists and dental hygienists—supervision removed, less prescriptive scope of practice   | 2014 | Scope of practice standard is reviewed—covers all dental practitioners, OHPs ‘not independent’ but ‘autonomous practice within scope’ and structured professional relationships   |
| 1940s | Australian Government delegations explore the NZ model for school dental nurses; opposed by the ADA   | 1995 | Federal government’s Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council allocates funding for adult-scope dental therapy trial; curriculum and research protocol developed but the trial was discontinued   | 2005 | Bachelor of Oral Health (BOH) begins at the University of Melbourne (2006 at La Trobe University and 2014 at Holmesglen)   | 2020 | Codes of practice reviewed—OHPs equivalent regulation to all other dental and health practitioners  |
| 1960s | NHMRC recommends an ‘auxiliary’ workforce to address high level of dental need in Australian children   |      |   | 2006 | Victorian codes of practice reviewed—patient age limit raised to 25, collaboration and referral with structured professional relationship implemented  | 2021 | Provider numbers applied to dental therapists, hygienists and oral health therapists, enabling direct billing for their services  |
| 1965  | First dental therapists trained in South Australia and Tasmania (working under direction and control)   |      |   | 2009 | Victorian codes of practice reviewed, patient age limit removed  |      |   |
| 1972  | Victoria’s <i>Dentists Act</i> and <i>Dental Technicians Act</i> passed, providing for dental prosthetists and school dental therapists, and a more autonomous Dental Board of Victoria (comprising dentists elected by dentists) |      |   |      |  |      |   |





## LIST OF WORKS

### HENRY FORMAN ATKINSON DENTAL MUSEUM, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

- 1 Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch (est. 1928) **Memorandum to the Australian Dental Association on the Problems Involved in Providing a National Dental Health Service**, 1944  
print on paper  
22.0 × 14.0 cm  
HFA4626  
Report on review of the National Dental Health Service.  
(see page x)
- 2 Kaltenbach and Voigt (est. 1909) The Amalgamated Dental (Aust) Pty Ltd (distributor) **Contra angle turbine handpiece kit, 'Borden Air rotor "60"',** 1959–65  
metal, plastic, paper, rubber, plastic  
box 3.5 × 18.5 × 7.0 cm  
inscribed *Borden Air Rotar '60'*  
Gift of Lyn Easton, 2022  
HFA4147
- 3 The Amalgamated Dental Co. Ltd (est. 1924) **'Ash' Alloy balance**, 1960  
metal, paper, ink  
15.0 × 4.5 × 4.5 cm  
HFA2507  
Student-style all-metal alloy balance.
- 4 Block Drug Company (est. 1907, closed 2001) **Py-co-pay teaching aid teeth with toothbrush**, c. 1960  
plastic, nylon  
toothbrush 31.0 × 2.5 × 4.0 cm  
teeth 7.5 × 11.0 × 9.5 cm  
HFA3158  
(see facing page)
- 5 Badeco (est. 1945) **Amalgam carrier**, c. 1960  
metal  
13.5 × 0.7 cm  
HFA712
- 6 Gowllands Ltd (est. c. 1900) **Dental mirrors**, c. 1960  
metal, glass (silvered)  
dimensions vary, sizes 0, 1, 2, 3, 4  
MHM02219
- 7 **Pestle**, c. 1960  
glass  
9.0 × 1.5 cm  
HFA684  
A standard design used for amalgam preparation.
- 8 **Double-ended amalgam burnisher**, c. 1960  
metal  
17.0 × 0.5 cm  
stamped *Dr W Vajna*  
HFA1093  
Referred to as 'double-ended plugger'.
- 9 **Single-ended amalgam burnisher**, c. 1960  
metal  
16.5 × 0.5 cm  
HFA1092
- 10 SS White Dental (est. 1844) GV Black (1836–1915) **Dental hatchets bearing GV Black classifications**, c. 1960  
steel  
15.0 × 0.5 cm  
Courtesy of the Australian College of Dentistry, 1963  
HFA2491
- 11 SS White Dental (est. 1844) GV Black (1836–1915) **Dental enamel hatchets bearing GV Black classifications**, c. 1960  
steel  
15.0 × 0.5 cm  
Courtesy of the Australian College of Dentistry, 1963  
HFA2492
- 12 SS White Dental (est. 1844) GV Black (1836–1915) **Dental hoes bearing GV Black classifications**, c. 1960  
steel  
15.0 × 0.5 cm  
Courtesy of the Australian College of Dentistry, 1963  
HFA2493
- 13 SS White Dental (est. 1844) GV Black (1836–1915) **Dental gingival margin trimmers bearing GV Black classifications**, c. 1960  
steel, plastic  
15.0 × 0.8 cm  
Courtesy of the Australian College of Dentistry, 1963  
HFA2470
- 14 The Amalgamated Dental Co. Ltd (est. 1924) **Tweezers**, c. 1960  
metal  
15.5 × 2.5 cm  
HFA2415
- 15 Dr Clive G Dennis (1925–2021) **Dentition models**, c. 1960  
plastic, resin  
half 5.0 × 4.0 × 2.0 cm  
set 5.0 × 4.0 × 3.5 cm  
HFA1934  
Upper and lower acrylic model dentition of Mary and Kathy White, identical twins, showing the similarities of dentition.
- 16 **Mortar**, c. 1963  
glass  
3.5 × 5.5 cm  
HFA690  
This mortar was used in preparing dental amalgam for fillings.
- 17 New Zealand School Dental Service (est. 1921) **Lecture Notes for Student Dental Nurses: Dental Anatomy and Dental Histology**, 1969  
AR Shearer, Governmental Printer, Wellington, New Zealand (est. 1968, closed 1976)  
soft card, paper, tape

Cat. 4 Block Drug Company (est. 1907, closed 2001), **Py-co-pay teaching aid teeth with toothbrush**, c. 1960, plastic, nylon, toothbrush. HFA3158, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

- 20.0 × 16.3 × 0.7 cm  
signed cover *Nurse Hillé*  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4442  
Notes used by Australian students who undertook their training in New Zealand.
- 18 Milk Board Victoria (est. 1932, closed 1977)  
**‘Take Care of Your Mouth’ poster**, c. 1970  
paper, ink  
71.1 × 47.9 cm  
Gift of Kerry, Sally and Michael Landman, 2018  
HFA3348
- 19 Milk Board Victoria (est. 1932, closed 1977)  
**‘Attractive Teeth for Teeners’ poster**, c. 1970  
paper, ink  
71.1 × 47.9 cm  
Gift of Kerry, Sally and Michael Landman, 2018  
HFA3349
- 20 Unitek  
**Pedodontic study models, primary upper and lower, in original case**, c. 1970  
rubber, plastic, fabric, cardboard, ink, metal  
box 3.3 × 7.8 × 17.8 cm  
Gift of Naidia Hajko Pedo, 2017  
HFA3319  
Used by Professor Desmond Crack for training in the 1980s in the Pedodontic Department of the Royal Dental Hospital, Melbourne.
- 21 New Zealand School Dental Service (est. 1921)  
**Lecture Notes for Student Dental Nurses: Orthodontics**, 1972  
AR Shearer, Governmental Printer, Wellington, New Zealand (est. 1968, closed 1976)  
soft card, paper  
20.5 × 14.8 × 0.2 cm  
signed cover *Nurse Hillé*  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4474
- 22 New Zealand School Dental Service (est. 1921)  
**Lecture Notes for Student Dental Nurses: Local Anaesthetics and Extractions**, 1974  
AR Shearer, Governmental Printer, Wellington, New Zealand (est. 1968, closed 1976)  
soft card, paper, tape  
20.5 × 16.5 × 0.5 cm  
signed cover *Nurse Hillé*  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4472
- 23 American Dental Association (est. 1859)  
**Fluoridation Facts: Answers to Questions about Fluoridation**, 1974  
gloss paper  
21.5 × 13.5 cm  
HFA4673
- 24 Milk Board Victoria (est. 1932, closed 1977)  
**The Good Foods Colouring Book**, 1975  
card, paper  
26.7 × 19.8 × 0.2 cm  
Gift of Glenys Barnes, 2023  
HFA4434  
Educational aid for dental health in Victorian schools.
- 25 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**‘Training in dental therapy: an interesting and rewarding career’**, 1975  
paper  
13.0 × 12.5 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4461  
Advertisement, with applicants to be aged under 26, female and unmarried.  
(see page 12)
- 26 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Letter detailing new dental therapy course and application process**, Oct. 1975  
paper  
33.5 × 20.5 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4462
- 27 Dominion Gold Supply Co. (est. c. 1921)  
**Gold Star 1 oz. Dental Alloy**, 1975–85  
glass, plastic, paper, alloy
- 3.5 × 3.0 × 3.0 cm  
Gift of Mike Morgan, 2023  
HFA4714  
This dental alloy was hand-mixed (pre-capsulation) with mercury to produce dental amalgam for the restoration of teeth following cavity preparation.
- 28 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year students in the preclinical ‘op tech’ lab**, 1976  
photograph  
20.2 × 25.3 cm  
HFA3974  
Sue Morris, Jenny Diprose (long sleeves), Nonee Hinchcliff standing with Annette Pritchard, seated Kerrie Kneivitt and Robyn Lawson.  
(see page 15)
- 29 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year students Roslyn Atkins, Lorraine Hughes and Joanne Boyd carving wax teeth in a dental anatomy class**, 1976  
photograph  
8.8 × 12.8 cm  
HFA3976  
Carved wax teeth were used to teach dental dexterity and for anatomical study.
- 30 Julie Smedley  
**Carved wax teeth**, 1976  
wax, cardboard, paper  
models 3.5 × 1.5 × 1.5 cm  
box 6.5 × 8.0 × 8.0 cm  
inscribed *Julie Smedley NO 47*  
Gift of Julie Satur (née Smedley), 2023  
HFA4429  
Made in the first year of dental therapy.
- 31 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Dental Therapy School Handbook 1976–77**, 1976  
paper, metal, plastic  
34.0 × 23.5 × 3.0 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur (née Smedley), 2023  
HFA4436  
Course notes used by Julie Smedley.
- 32 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Dental Therapy School Handbook 1976–77**, 1976  
paper, metal, plastic  
30.5 × 23.5 × 5.5 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur (née Smedley), 2023  
HFA4437  
Green folder of course notes used by Julie Smedley.  
(see page 16)
- 33 **Victorian dental therapist student (first cohort) sweatshirt**, 1976  
cotton, ink  
49.0 × 146.0 cm  
Gift of Glenys Barnes 2023  
HFA4428  
Light-blue sweatshirt with Dental Therapy Victoria logo, designed by Julie Smedley (Satur), showing a kangaroo and an emu flanking a tooth.  
(see page 93)
- 34 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Teaching notes 1976–77**, 1976  
paper, metal, plastic  
35.5 × 24.0 × 2.0 cm  
Gift of Glenys Barnes (née Webb), 2023  
HFA4438  
Course notes used by Glenys Webb.
- 35 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
St John Ambulance Association (est. 1877)  
**Teaching notes 1976–77**, 1976  
paper, metal, soft card  
35.5 × 24.0 × 2.0 cm  
Gift of Glenys Barnes (née Webb), 2023  
HFA4439  
Course notes had to be memorised and students were discouraged from seeking knowledge elsewhere.
- 36 Glenys Webb  
**Carved teeth**, 1976  
plastic, plaster, plasticine, wax  
box 28.0 × 21.0 × 7.0 cm
- labelled *G Webb 54*  
Gift of Glenys Barnes (née Webb), 2023  
HFA4469  
(see page 25)
- 37 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Dental anatomy folder of Julie Smedley**, 1976  
paper  
30.5 × 23.5 × 2.5 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur (née Smedley), 2023  
HFA4476  
Course notes used by Julie Smedley.
- 38 Pam Howden  
**Carved wax teeth**, 1976  
wax, cardboard, paper  
models 3.5 × 1.5 × 1.5 cm  
box 2.5 × 18.5 × 8.5 cm  
inscribed *Wax teeth dental anatomy Pam Howden*  
Gift of Pam Howden, 2023  
HFA4430  
Carved wax teeth were used to teach dental dexterity and anatomical study.
- 39 JP Bradburn, Secretary, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Offer of placement to Miss JG Smedley, Dental Therapy School**, 21 Jan. 1976  
paper  
33.0 × 21.5 cm  
signed *JP Bradburn*  
Gift of Julie Satur (née Smedley), 2023  
HFA4463  
(see page 107)
- 40 JP Bradburn, Secretary, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Letter ‘Re: Dental Therapy Cadetship’ addressed to Miss J Smedley**, 2 Feb. 1976  
paper  
29.0 × 21.0 cm  
signed *JP Bradburn*  
Gift of Julie Satur (née Smedley), 2023  
HFA4464
- 41 JP Bradburn, Secretary, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Dental therapist agreement with Julie Gay Smedley, and letter**, 7 Feb. 1976  
paper  
letter 29.5 × 21.0 cm  
agreement 33.0 × 21.3 cm  
signed *JP Bradburn*  
Gift of Julie Satur (née Smedley), 2023  
HFA4467  
Students were contracted with a cadetship. Parents provided a surety to pay back wages if students didn’t complete the course.
- 42 VP Scully, Secretary, Education Department, Victoria  
**Board and lodgings documents for Julie Smedley**, 25 Feb. 1976  
paper  
various  
signed *VP Scully*  
Gift of Julie Satur (née Smedley), 2023  
HFA4505  
The Dental Therapy School matron, Miss Dyson (later Mrs Fuller), secured positions at education hostels for country students.
- 43 Frederich E Ord, Membership Officer, Victorian Public Service Association (est. 1885)  
**Letter to Miss J Smedley**, 1 May 1976  
paper, card  
33.5 × 20.5 cm  
signed *Frederich E Ord*  
Gift of Julie Satur (née Smedley), 2023  
HFA4465  
Establishing a dental therapist group within the association.
- 44 Department of Health, Victoria  
**Pay advice slip, 1/3 to 5/5/1976**, May 1976  
paper  
9.0 × 9.5 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur (née Smedley), 2023  
HFA4506  
Student Julie Smedley’s salary advice slip, with super and net pay in her first year as a student.

- 45 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**The Dental Therapy School at 448 St Kilda Road, Melbourne**, c. 1976 photograph  
12.8 × 8.6 cm  
HFA3969  
(see page 8)
- 46 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Entrance to the Dental Therapy School, Melbourne**, c. 1976 photograph  
8.6 × 12.8 cm  
HFA3970  
Bus in the driveway used for bringing children to the clinic.
- 47 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Second-year Dental Therapy student Jenny Jones and dental assistant treating child patient**, 1977 photograph  
20.2 × 25.3 cm  
HFA3973  
Children were brought by bus from local schools for treatment by second-year students under the supervision of dentist demonstrators.
- 48 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Principal dental therapist Mrs Anne Fuller (née Dyson), dentist Dr Robinson and first-year dental therapy students Gaylene Nash, Kerry Knevtitt and Kaylene Smart**, 1977 photograph  
20.1 × 25.3 cm  
HFA3975  
(see page 11)
- 49 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Second-year dental therapy students Maureen Hahn and Christine Hill with dental assistant**, 1977 photograph  
20.5 × 25.5 cm  
HFA4322  
(see front cover)
- 50 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Dental therapy students Rayleen Formosa, Debbie Kelly and Helen Grant during oral hygiene instruction**, 1977 photograph  
12.9 × 8.9 cm  
HFA4323
- 51 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Second-year dental therapy student Pam Howden treating child patient**, 1977 photograph  
12.9 × 8.9 cm  
HFA4325
- 52 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Second-year dental therapy student Susan McKenzie treating child patient**, 1977 photograph  
8.9 × 12.9 cm  
HFA4326
- 53 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Second-year dental therapy students with Dr Pamela Daniel demonstrating**, 1977 photograph  
8.9 × 12.9 cm  
HFA4327  
Sharon Reid, Kerry Knevtitt, Sally Haines, Meg Sargood (standing), Denise Matthews (sitting) with Dr Pamela Daniel.
- 54 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year dental therapy student Jenny Scandrett**, 1977 photograph  
8.9 × 12.9 cm  
HFA4328
- 55 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Second-year dental therapy students in first-floor clinic**, 1977 photograph  
8.9 × 12.9 cm  
HFA4329  
Leanne McKenna (standing, wearing 'nit cap'), Dr Robinson (seated demonstrator), Jan Andrews (dental assistant) and student Susan McGuinness (seated).
- 56 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Waiting room, first-floor clinic**, 1977 photograph  
8.9 × 12.9 cm  
HFA4330  
Dental therapy student Lynne Claney with children waiting for dental care.
- 57 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Second-year dental therapy students Kerryn Cowley and Leonie Murphy**, 1977 photograph, card, contact adhesive plastic  
8.9 × 12.9 cm  
HFA4332  
Operative Techniques clinic, first floor of Dental Therapy School.
- 58 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Dentist Dr Peter Cheung and dental assistant Jan Andrews treating child patient**, 1977 photograph  
8.9 × 12.9 cm  
HFA4333
- 59 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Dr Peter Cheung demonstrating restoring extracted teeth set in plaster**, 1977 photograph  
8.9 × 12.9 cm  
HFA4335  
Dr Peter Cheung (standing) demonstrating, Gail Owen to the left.
- 60 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year student Denise Matthews with Dr Pamela Daniel demonstrating**, 1977 photograph  
8.9 × 12.9 cm  
HFA4336
- 61 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Child waiting for treatment at first-floor clinic**, 1977 photograph  
8.9 × 12.9 cm  
HFA4342
- 62 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Second-year student Helen Grant with child patient**, 1977 photograph  
20.2 × 25.3 cm  
HFA4343
- 63 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Second-year students with Dr Molly Spracklan (demonstrator) and dental assistant treating child patient**, 1977 photograph  
20.2 × 25.3 cm  
HFA4344
- 64 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Dental Therapy School clinic**, 1977 photograph  
12.9 × 17.9 cm  
HFA4346  
Sally Haines seated in foreground, with Bronwyn Lake with Dr Jim Lowther standing behind the screen.
- 65 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Second-year students Helen Xynas-Caponi and Christine Thomas**, 1977 photograph  
12.9 × 17.9 cm  
HFA4347
- 66 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year student Gaylene Nash**, 1977 photograph  
8.9 × 12.9 cm  
HFA4348  
(see page 29)
- 67 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-floor clinic, Dental Therapy School**, 1977 photograph  
8.9 × 12.9 cm  
HFA4353
- 68 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Workstation in first-floor clinic**, 1977 photograph  
8.9 × 12.9 cm  
HFA4354
- 69 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Dental Therapy School, 448 St Kilda Road, Melbourne**, 1977 photograph  
8.9 × 12.9 cm  
HFA4356
- 70 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Street view of the Dental Therapy School, 448 St Kilda Road, Melbourne**, 1977 photograph  
8.9 × 12.9 cm  
HFA4357
- 71 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Student Helen Xynas-Caponi and Dr Jack Johansen**, 1977 photograph  
13.0 × 9.0 cm  
HFA4296
- 72 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Student Helen Xynas-Caponi with dental assistant and dentist treating child patient**, 1977 photograph  
13.0 × 9.0 cm  
HFA4297
- 73 Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch (est. 1928) AMA Victoria (est. 1879)  
**'Don't be misled! ... Remember Fluoride saves Dental Visits and Bills!'**, 1977 paper, acetate document  
29.5 × 21.0 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4477  
Water fluoridation was first introduced into Melbourne's water supply in 1977.
- 74 Julie Smedley  
**Diet and oral health questionnaire for school children, and canteen list**, 1977 paper questionnaire  
33.0 × 20.0 cm form  
33.5 × 20.5 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur (née Smedley), 2023  
HFA4478  
Prepared for St Albans Heights Primary School, from Julie Smedley's Dental Therapy School handbook, 1976-77.
- 75 Frank Pietras Photography  
Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1976-77, first graduate group**, 1977 photograph  
19.5 × 25.0 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4386  
(see inside front cover)  
The first class to graduate from the Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), at the Dental Therapy School. Forty-six students graduated from the 60 who started the course. Left to right, back row: Christine Thomas, Clare Gans, Sally Martin,

- Susan McGuinness, Barbara Young, Leonie Murphy, Mary Daniels, Kerry Field, Bronwyn Crozier, Julie Smedley. Second to back row: Carmel Leahy, Bronwyn Lake, Christine Hill, Annette Davin, Maureen Hahn, Helen Grant, Debbie Kelly, Patsy Bathgate, Dianne Dodgson, Narelle Farnsworth, Dianne Cottrell. Middle row: Karen Van Guilick, Rayleen McLellan, Angela Buffon, Bronwyn Cousins, Helen Xynas-Caponi, Leanne McKenna, Karen Moebus, Susan McKenzie, Jenny Simper, Helen Miller, Linda Kilevics. Second to front row, with staff: Maureen Barber, Dr Robinson, Dr John Chapman (principal), Mrs Anne Fuller (née Dyson, SDT/matron, note epaulettes on shoulders), Dr Pamela Daniels, Dr Peter Cheung, Dr Ken Wilson, Dr Jack Johansen, Rhonda Graham, Lynne Claney. Front row: Debra Sloan, Gill Dennis, Jennifer Jones, Glenys Webb, Sally Haines, Dianne Clements, Pam Howden, Denise Ellis, Rhonda Stokes, Suzi Lightfoot. In absentia: Pat Bull.
- 76 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Victorian dental therapist 'Graduation 1977' pen**, 1977  
plastic, metal  
13.0 × 2.0 cm  
Gift of Glenys Barnes, 2023  
HFA4443
- 77 Dental Board of Victoria (est. 1887, closed 1999)  
**Receipt for licence to practice as a school dental therapist**, 1977  
paper  
6.0 × 35.5 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur (née Smedley), 2023  
HFA4479
- 78 *Gazette* (Melbourne)  
Liz Purcell  
**'Dental work is free'**, 12 Oct. 1977  
paper  
27.0 × 15.5 cm  
HFA4704  
Newspaper article on new school dental clinics at Aberfeldie, Moonee Ponds West and Ascot Vale Primary, showing dental therapist Amanda McKendry and dental nurse Pat Jeffrey.
- 79 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Dental therapist Robyn Jones delivering dental health education to primary school children**, c. 1977  
photograph  
24.0 × 34.0 cm  
HFA4676  
Robyn Jones trained in New Zealand and returned to work in the School Dental Service (see NZ badge on her uniform). In 1973, young women could apply for a federal government scholarship to study dental therapy in New Zealand. (see page 27)
- 80 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Dental therapist Robyn Jones delivering oral health instruction to a school child**, c. 1977  
photograph  
24.0 × 34.0 cm  
HFA4677
- 81 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Dental therapist Robyn Jones and dental assistant treating child patient**, c. 1977  
photograph  
24.0 × 34.0 cm  
HFA4679
- 82 John Squire Photography  
Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1977–78, second graduate group**, 1978  
photograph  
20.4 × 25.4 cm  
HFA4388  
Second group to graduate from the Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), at the Dental Therapy School. Left to right,
- back row: Eve Haas (Gardiner), Gaylene R Nash, Sharon Reid, Jenny Scandrett, Jane Stacey, Rudi Kamolyhipmonkol, Michelle Tolley, Annette L Holland (Pritchard), Debra De Bondt, Joy L Davis (Cowan), Karen M Dicker (Bird), Cheryl R Drake, Narelle L Cant, Pamela L Dixon, Janette Carpenter (Grice), Julie Deveraux (Hannan-Smith), Noni [Nonee] Hinchcliff, Sue K Morris. Middle row includes: Robin Bennison, Linda J Emonson, Margaret A Sargoo, Joanne Pekin (Kharsus), Robyn Lawson, Joanne M Boyd, Robyn E Loftus, Wendy Zangona, Margaret D Grace, Grace Bertrand, Mandy Whittaker. Front row includes: Sarah Woodroffe, Roslyn E Atkins, Lorraine Hughes (Mooiman), Delwyn Chisholm (SDT), Kerrie A Kneivitt (Wills), Ingrid E Hartog, Jenny Atherton (Hade), Anne M James, Denise L Matthews (Harisou), Kaylene Smart.
- 83 *Broadmeadows Observer*  
**'Diet bite Kathy style'**, 15 Nov. 1978  
paper  
27.5 × 18.5 cm  
HFA4688  
Newspaper article on the Victorian school dental unit at Gladstone Views Primary School.
- 84 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Principal of the Dental Therapy School, Dr John Chapman (1928-2020), and dental assistant Jan Andrews treating child patient**, 1977-78  
photograph  
20.2 × 25.3 cm  
HFA3971.3
- 85 *Cumberland Newspaper* (Vic.) (est. c. 1960s, closed 1978)  
**Dental therapist Christine Hill with child patient outside dental van**, 1978-79  
photograph  
25.5 × 20.5 cm  
HFA4359  
(see page 4)
- 86 *Cumberland Newspaper* (Vic.) (est. c. 1960s, closed 1978)  
**Dental therapist Christine Hill walking with child patient in school grounds**, 1978-79  
photograph  
25.5 × 19.0 cm  
HFA4360
- 87 *Cumberland Newspaper* (Vic.) (est. c. 1960s, closed 1978)  
**Dental therapist Christine Hill with child patient in dental chair**, 1978-79  
photograph  
25.5 × 20.5 cm  
HFA4365
- 88 *Cumberland Newspaper* (Vic.) (est. c. 1960s, closed 1978)  
**Dental therapist Christine Hill treating child patient**, 1978-79  
photograph  
25.5 × 20.5 cm  
HFA4367
- 89 *Cumberland Newspaper* (Vic.) (est. c. 1960s, closed 1978)  
**Dental therapist Christine Hill giving child patient oral hygiene instruction**, 1978-79  
photograph  
25.5 × 20.5 cm  
HFA4373
- 90 *Cumberland Newspaper* (Vic.) (est. c. 1960s, closed 1978)  
**Child patient brushing teeth during oral hygiene instruction**, 1978-79  
photograph  
25.5 × 20.5 cm  
HFA4376
- 91 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Dental therapist Sally Haines treating child patient**, 1978-79  
photograph  
25.5 × 20.5 cm  
HFA4288
- 92 Marcella Sabo / Squire Photographic, Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1978-79, third graduate group**, 1979  
photograph  
20.4 × 25.4 cm  
HFA4387  
Third group to graduate from the Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), at the Dental Therapy School. Left to right, back row: Anne Hill, Robyn Tell, Louise Kenna, Suzanne (Suzie) Broadbent, Meredith O'Brien, Christine Ball, Rosemary Harris, Debbie Allen, Angela Meyerheindric, Elizabeth (Libby) Hill, Vicki Harbour, Wendy Powerlett, Jan Syme, Trudy Mutton, Andrea Sauvarini, Connie Kamberis, Doris Jancic, Lynette Russell. Middle row: Linda Badenhope, Fiona Goodings, Cathy Watterson, Marcella Lizzit, Catherine Fitzgerald, Ronda Keart (Hewes), Susan Kedge, Elizabeth Evans, Rosemary Hall, Robyn Wood, Gaynor Elder, Sharon Miliken, Wendy Rathbone, Jenny Kerr, Tamara Vlaskalic. Front row: Jillian Petersen, Tricia Lynch, Robyn Zegenhagen, Shelley Mellor, Anne-Rita Hazewinkel, Delwyn Chisholm (STD), Michelle Neubauer, Susan (Sue) Clinkaberry (Neild), Arlene Orgill, Moire Cotter, Alison Rebbechi. In absentia: Jenny Butters, Meredith Williams, Andrea Buckley.
- 93 *The Herald Sun* (est. 1855)  
**'A dental check ...'**, 31 Mar. 1979  
paper  
16.0 × 16.0 cm  
HFA4713  
Newspaper article on dental therapist Nonee Hinchcliff, Miss Health Commission in the Miss Australia Quest, treating a student at Glengala Primary School, in Sunshine.
- 94 **'Ten Pretty Girls in PS Quest'**, Apr. 1979  
paper  
19.5 × 26.0 cm  
HFA4685  
Dental therapist graduate Nonee Hinchcliff (4th from left) awarded Miss Victorian Government Service, announced by the Victorian premier, Mr Hamer, presented by the state governor, Henry Winneke (centre).
- 95 **'Naomi takes a title'**, Apr. 1979  
paper  
20.0 × 11.5 cm  
HFA4686  
Dental therapy graduate Nonee Hinchcliff awarded Miss Victorian Government Service, announced by the Victorian premier, Mr Hamer, and presented by the state governor, Henry Winneke. Nonee Hinchcliff is incorrectly named Naomi Hinchcliff in the article.
- 96 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Dental Therapy School teaching staff**, 1980  
photograph  
9.0 × 8.7 cm  
HFA4379  
Left to right, back row: Dr Jim Lowther, Pat Bradburn, Dr Rodney Sutton, Dr Lawrie Gaggiero, Dr Noel Hodges, Dr Neil Crockfordy. Front row: orthodontist Dr Han Kwee, Dr Susan Seward, Dr Jack Johansen, Dr John Chapman (principal), Dr Brian Wood, Dr Doug Grant (head of SDS), Dr Peter Cheung, Dr Pamela Daniels, Dr David Muirden, Dr Brian Grant, Dr Felix Russo.
- 97 Education Department of Victoria  
**Nutrition Guidelines for School Canteens and School Councils**, 1980  
card, paper  
21.0 × 14.7 × 0.2 cm  
Gift of Glenys Barnes, 2023  
HFA4433  
(see page 71)
- 98 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Dental Health Education in the Primary School**, 1980  
card, paper  
30.0 × 21.0 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4435  
(see page 19)
- 99 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Dental Therapy School administration and support staff**, 1980

- photograph  
12.8 × 17.8 cm  
HFA4380
- 100 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Dental assistants, Dental Therapy School, 1980**  
photograph  
9.0 × 8.7 cm  
HFA4383  
Jan Andrews (back row, far right) was senior dental nurse at the Dental Therapy School. The length of the uniform was strictly knee length.
- 101 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year dental therapy cadets, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1980–81, fifth graduate group, 1980**  
photograph  
9.0 × 8.7 cm  
HFA4384  
Includes Suzanne Hose, Melissa Wilson, Janene Smith, Tessa Gatte, Diane Patsch, Linda Jennings, Jo-Anne Pearson, Margaret Randles, Kellie-Ann Jolly, Mary Georgiadis, Lorraine Watts, Vicki Pendrich, Niki Hantzis, Lina Tamosaitis, Amanda Petalias, Merrilyn Jones, Andrea Butters, Maree Smith, Vicki Keast Kaye Davidson, Ingrid wolf, Jillian Mair, Catherine Thompson, Delwyn Chisolm (SDT), Tracy Rickard, Julie Owen, Susan Newell, Donna Harding.
- 102 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year dental therapy cadets, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1979–80, fourth graduate group, 1980**  
photograph  
12.8 × 17.8 cm  
HFA4385  
Front row: Jeanette Mass (Krechman, right), Linda Herscu (4th from right), Linda Kuran, Prue (Morris, 4th from left). Middle row: Elena Ayre (née Greenwood, 5th from right). Back row: Eleanor Schroeder (left).
- Class list: Janifer Rae Anderson, Leanne Ruth Averill, Linda Elizabeth Bartsch (McKenna), Jacqueline Gaye Bretherton, Megan Lynette Burns, Alison Josie Cavanagh, Joan Dorothy Coldham (Donegan), Helen Maree Coombs, Joanne Maree Davis, Susan Garas, Elena Mary Greenwood, Tracey Anne Hanchett, Bernadette Anne Harrington, Robyn Leanne Holt, Jacqueline Frances Jones, Jeanette Krechman, Linda Kuran, Dianne Margaret Lampard, Jennifer Louise Le Deux, Susan Elaine Macmarquis, Fiona Elizabeth McRae, Helen Lorraine Miller, Prudence Jane Morris, Helen Teresa Pawelec, Vicki Patricia Polglase, Helene Frances Regan, Anne Kristen Scherger, Eleanor Joy Schroeder (Dornbarych), Susan Anne Schwab, Elizabeth Ann Senior, Christine Anne Sherman, Karen Louise Sherman, Jennifer Marie Shotton (O’Sullivan), Michelle Christine Smith, Wendy Ruth Thompson, Deborah Leanne Tucker (L’Almont), Julie Lynette Wigney.
- 103 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Food Groups video, 1980**  
paper, plastic (polypropylene), VHS tape  
22.0 × 14.5 × 3.0 cm  
HFA3155
- 104 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
The Royal Children’s Hospital (est. 1870)  
**Beat Tooth Decay video, 1980**  
paper, plastic (polypropylene), VHS tape  
22.0 × 14.5 × 3.0 cm  
HFA3154
- 105 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
The Royal Children’s Hospital (est. 1870)  
**Plaque Control video, 1980**  
paper, plastic (polypropylene), VHS tape  
22.0 × 14.0 × 3.0 cm  
HFA4650
- 106 **“Broad Grin Week” a big success’, 2 Apr. 1980**  
paper  
15.0 × 11.5 cm  
HFA4693  
Newspaper article on Gowrie Park Primary School, where 1750 children assisted by dental therapists and dental nurses took part in ‘Broad Grin Week in Broadmeadows’. Dental therapist Colleen Alleway, from the Moomba Park Primary School Fawkner Dental Clinic, attends.
- 107 *Geelong Advertiser* (est. 1840)  
**‘There’s good reason to smile’, 19 Apr. 1980**  
paper  
27.5 × 19.0 cm  
HFA4703  
Dental therapists Andrea Sauvar and Rosemary Hall visit Bellaire Primary School for dental health promotion.
- 108 **Dental therapist clinical uniform, 1980s**  
cotton, velco, plastic, polyester  
size 12  
Gift of Caroline Koedyk, 2023  
HFA4431
- 109 Premier Dental Products Co. (est. 1913)  
**Amalgam carrier, c. 1980**  
plastic  
16.0 × 2.5 cm  
HFA715  
Typical Hampel type, with a plastic body and plunger.
- 110 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**‘For Teeth for Health’ sticker, c. 1980**  
paper, plastic  
7.5 × 7.5 cm  
HFA3156
- 111 3B Scientific (est. 1948)  
**Large model of a molar with removable pulp and tooth inserts, c. 1980**  
plastic, metal  
27.0 × 15.0 × 13.0 cm  
HFA4646  
A 15-times life-size model for demonstrating stages of tooth decay. (see page 3)
- 112 3B Scientific (est. 1948)  
**Small model of a molar with carious tooth, c. 1980**  
plastic, metal  
tooth 17.0 × 9.0 × 7.0 cm  
on stand 21.5 × 9.0 × 7.0 cm  
HFA4712  
Model, depicting an upper triple-root molar, separates into two to show stages of tooth decay.
- 113 3B Scientific (est. 1948)  
**Large model of a molar with removable pulp and carious tooth inserts, c. 1980**  
plastic, metal  
27.0 × 15.0 × 13.0 cm  
HFA4711  
A 15-times life size model, depicting an upper triple-root molar, separates into two, with removable pulp and components to show stages of tooth decay.
- 114 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Go, Grow, Glow video, c. 1980**  
plastic, paper, VHS tape  
22.0 × 14.0 × 3.0 cm  
HFA4648
- 115 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
The Royal Children’s Hospital (est. 1870)  
**Keep Them Clean, Care for Teeth video, c. 1980**  
plastic, paper, VHS tape  
22.0 × 14.0 × 3.0 cm  
HFA4649
- 116 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**The Three Little Pigs video and teaching program, c. 1980**  
plastic, paper, VHS tape  
22.0 × 14.0 × 3.0 cm  
HFA4651
- 117 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Catalogue of Dental Health Educational Material, c. 1980**  
plastic, card, metal  
32.0 × 23.0 × 2.0 cm
- HFA4653  
Information about dental and nutrition lectures for schools, provided to Victorian primary schools.
- 118 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**‘I snack on healthy foods’ rabbit sticker, c. 1980**  
paper, plastic  
sticker 7.0 × 5.0 cm  
sheet 22.5 × 20.5 cm  
HFA4659  
Used for preventative dental care education in primary schools.
- 119 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**‘I snack on healthy foods’ hippo sticker, c. 1980**  
paper, plastic  
sticker 7.0 × 5.0 cm  
sheet 22.5 × 20.5 cm  
HFA4660  
Used for preventative dental care education in primary schools.
- 120 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
Peter Mumme (author)  
**‘Three Little Pigs’ song lyrics, c. 1980**  
paper  
36.0 × 25.5 cm  
HFA4661  
Used for preventative dental care education in primary schools.
- 121 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**‘The Three Little Pigs’ colouring sheets, c. 1980**  
FD Atkinson, Government Printer, Melbourne  
card, metal  
19.5 × 26.0 cm  
HFA4662  
Used for preventative dental care education in primary schools.
- 122 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**‘Dental Therapy Diploma of Applied Science Dental Health Services Victoria’ pamphlet, c. 1980**  
Corporate image (printer)
- 123 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**‘Catalog of Dental Health Educational Material’ pamphlet, c. 1980**  
Corporate Image (printer)  
gloss paper  
21.0 × 39.0 cm  
HFA4669
- 124 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**‘Teaching Programme for Dental Health Education of Primary School Children’ poster, c. 1980**  
FD Atkinson, Government Printer, Melbourne  
gloss paper  
42.0 × 59.0 cm  
HFA4670
- 125 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**‘Teaching Program for Dental Health Education of Primary School Children’ poster, c. 1980**  
gloss paper  
42.0 × 59.0 cm  
HFA4671
- 126 **Dental therapists presenting dental health education to school children, c. 1980**  
photograph  
9.0 × 13.5 cm  
HFA4699  
Kerry Kneivitt (left) and NZ-trained Rayleen Balle (centre).
- 127 Dental Health Education Committee, Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch (est. 1928)  
**Dental Health Notes for Primary Teachers, c. 1980**  
gloss card, paper  
29.5 × 21.0 cm  
HFA4674
- 128 **‘On the job, Dental Therapists’, c. 1980**  
paper  
39.5 × 26.0 cm  
HFA4683

- Dental therapist Margaret Guzzardi talks teeth with patient Con Kontoktsis at South West Brunswick Primary School.
- 129 **'More thrills than a mad mouse ride, more exciting than a trip down the big dipper ...'**, c. 1980  
paper  
21.0 × 15.0 cm  
HFA4689  
Dental therapist Berenice Schmal with children from Melton's St Catherine's Primary School at the 'Plaque Tunnel'.
- 130 **"'Plaque Tunnel" at school'**, c. 1980  
paper  
7.5 × 15.5 cm  
HFA4698  
Dental therapists Bernice Schmal, Merrill Waugh and Sue Clinkaberry at Coburg Primary School during Dental Health Week.
- 131 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1980–81, fifth graduate group**, 1981  
photograph  
25.4 × 30.4 cm  
HFA4389  
Left to right, back row: Suzanne Hose, Melissa Wilson, Janene Smith, Tessa Gatte, Diane Paatsch, Linda Jennings, Jo-Anne Pearson, Margaret Randles, Kellie-Ann Jolly. Middle row: Mary Georgiadis, Lorraine Watts, Vicki Pendricht, Niki Hantzis, Lina Tamosaitis, Amanda Patalas, Merrilyn Jones, Andrea Butters, Maree Smith, Vicki Keast. Front row: Kaye Davidson, Ingrid Wolf, Jillian Mair, Catherine Thompson, Delwyn Chisholm (SDT), Tracy Rickard, Julie Owen, Susan Newell, Donna Harding. (see page 35)
- 132 *The Coburg Courier* (est. 1935, closed 1995)  
**'Smiles all round'**, 17 Feb. 1981  
paper  
26.5 × 11.5 cm  
HFA4695
- Newspaper article on the Dental Health Services' dental van at Fawkner Primary School, with dental therapist Alison Cavanagh and dental assistant Filomena Carbonara pictured.
- 133 Dental Board of Victoria (est. 1887, closed 1999)  
**Miss JG Smedley's receipt for licence to practice as school dental therapist**, 15 Jun. 1981  
paper  
6.0 × 35.5 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur (née Smedley), 2023  
HFA4466
- 134 *The Free Press*  
**'New approach to health in school'**, 1 Jul. 1981  
paper  
23.0 × 19.5 cm  
HFA4702  
Dental therapist Andrea Buckley visits Ashburton Primary School.
- 135 *The Regional News* (Sunbury edition)  
**'Sunbury Community Health Centre's annual "Brush-In"'**, 8 Dec. 1981  
paper  
22.5 × 27.0 cm  
HFA4696  
Dental therapist Miss J Scimper at Kismet Park Primary School.
- 136 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
JJ Keur (author)  
**'Oral Radiology Course: Dental Studies 3'**, 1982  
paper  
29.5 × 21.0 cm  
HFA4664  
Course notes by JJ Keur DDC, Head of the Radiology Department, Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne, for dental therapy, Diploma of Applied Science.
- 137 *The Regional News* (Sunbury edition)  
**'Coping with their teething problems'**, 2 Feb. 1982  
paper  
22.5 × 27.0 cm  
HFA4687  
Newspaper article on Sunbury Community Health Centre's annual 'Brush-In' program.
- 138 *Progress Press* (est. 1969, closed 2001)  
**'Teeth are "Apples"'**, 14 Apr. 1982  
paper  
38.5 × 19.5 cm  
HFA4705  
Newspaper article on students participating in school 'Brush-In' at East Kew Primary School.
- 139 *The Herald Sun* (est. 1855)  
Ian McPherson  
**'Flashing smiles'**, 11 May 1982  
paper  
26.0 × 19.0 cm  
HFA4684  
Newspaper article on Dental Health Month.
- 140 *The Herald Sun* (est. 1855)  
**'Jacqueline brushes up on care'**, 11 May 1982  
paper  
23.0 × 26.0 cm  
HFA4680  
Seven-year-old Jacqueline visits St Kilda Dental Clinic for check up and lesson on teeth cleaning.
- 141 *Dandenong Journal* (est. 1865)  
**'Check up popular'**, 23 Nov. 1982  
paper  
28.5 × 20.0 cm  
HFA4701  
Dental therapists Sue McKinley and Jan Grice visit Coomoora Primary School.
- 142 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Program for sixth graduation of dental therapists**, 13 Dec. 1982  
card  
21.0 × 15.0 cm  
HFA4495

Cat. 33 **Victorian dental therapist student (first cohort) sweatshirt**, 1976, cotton, ink. HFA4428, gift of Glenys Barnes 2023, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

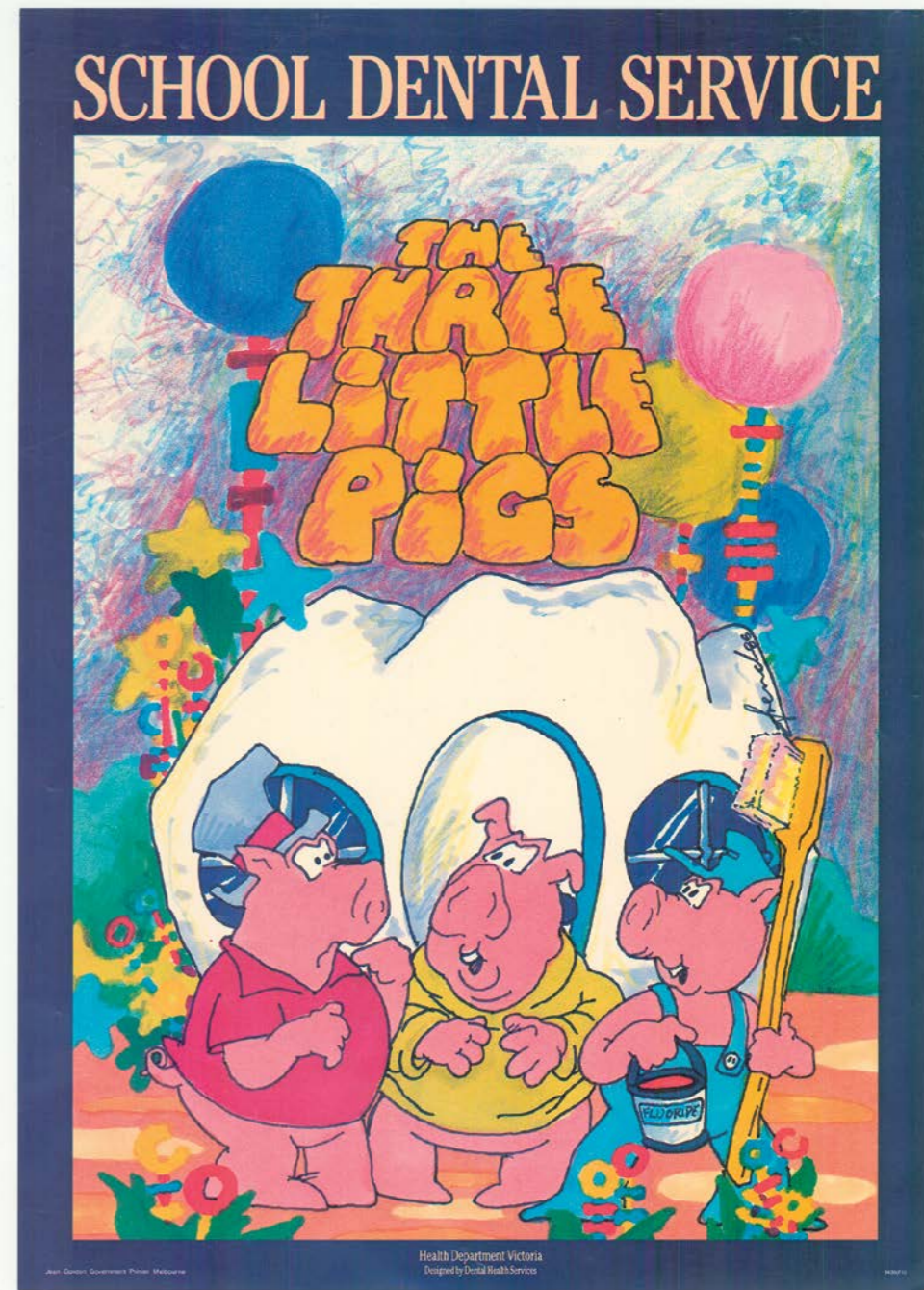
Light-blue sweatshirt with logo showing a kangaroo and an emu flanking a tooth.



- 143 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**'Remove Pete Plaque' poster**, 1983  
FD Atkinson Government Printer, Melbourne  
gloss paper  
59.5 × 42.0 cm  
HFA4722
- 144 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1982–83**, 1983  
photograph  
20.4 × 25.4 cm  
HFA4390  
After two years' satisfactory work in the field, a dental therapist earned the diploma and was permitted to work outside Victoria.
- 145 *Warragul & Drouin Gazette* (est. 1898)  
**'No teething troubles with prep pupils'**, 9 Jun. 1983  
paper  
18.0 × 17.0 cm  
HFA4682  
Dental therapist Ruth Thomson at Warragul Primary School as part of Dental Health Month.
- 146 *The Riverine Herald* (Echuca) (est. 1863)  
**'Nothing to be frightened of'**, 25 Jul. 1983  
paper  
19.5 × 14.5 cm  
HFA4691  
Dental health therapist Jenny Le Deux at a 'Brush-In' at Echuca Central Primary School.
- 147 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**'Polish Your Smile' poster**, 1984  
FD Atkinson Government Printer, Melbourne  
gloss paper  
59.5 × 42.0 cm  
HFA4726
- 148 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**'Bill Bacteria loves sweet food' poster**, 1984  
FD Atkinson Government Printer,
- Melbourne  
gloss paper  
59.5 × 42.0 cm  
HFA4725
- 149 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year dental therapy students, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1984–85**, 1984  
photograph  
8.58 × 13.0 cm  
HFA4392
- 150 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year dental therapy students, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1984–85**, 1984  
photograph  
15.0 × 10.0 cm  
HFA4460
- 151 *Pakenham Gazette* (est. c. 1917)  
**'The big bite'**, 7 Oct. 1984  
paper  
15.5 × 18.5 cm  
HFA4692  
Dental therapists Helen Miles, Deborah L'Amont and Jan Grice visiting Pakenham Consolidated School fête.
- 152 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**School Canteen Information**, c. 1984  
paper, plastic, card  
29.5 × 21.5 × 0.3 cm  
HFA4655  
Information on canteens for primary schools.
- 153 The Australian Nutrition Foundation (est. 1979)  
Red Books  
**The Complete School Canteen Book**, 1985  
gloss card, paper  
25.5 × 18.5 × 0.7 cm  
HFA4667
- 154 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**'Healthy Teeth – to look well – to eat well – to speak well' poster**, 1985  
FD Atkinson Government Printer, Melbourne  
gloss paper  
42.0 × 59.5 cm  
HFA4721
- 155 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**'School Dental Service "The Three Little Pigs"' poster**, 1985  
FD Atkinson Government Printer, Melbourne  
gloss paper  
42.0 × 29.5 cm  
HFA4720  
(see page 97)
- 156 National Health and Medical Research Council (est. 1936)  
Australian Government Publishing Service  
**Report of the Working Party on Fluorides in the Control of Dental Caries**, 1 Nov. 1985  
card, paper, metal  
24.5 × 17.5 cm  
HFA4658
- 157 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Dental Health Education Information**, c. 1985  
paper, card, plastic  
30.0 × 22.5 × 0.5 cm  
HFA4668  
Information relating to the delivery of dental health education by auxiliary dental staff (school dental therapists).
- 158 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Dental therapist Caroline Koedyk, Dr Yvonne Brown and dental assistant Linda Missen (née Rigby) in Morwell School Dental Clinic, Commercial Road Primary School**, c. 1985  
photograph  
9.0 × 12.5 cm  
HFA4448
- 159 *Sunraysia Daily* (est. 1920)  
**Dental therapist Lisa Wells dressed up as 'Katie Carrot' and Liz Gallaher as 'Celery'**, 29 Sept. 1986  
paper  
21.0 × 11.5 cm  
HFA4700  
Newspaper article on the School Dental Service's exhibit at Merbein Primary School's annual fête to promote nutritious lunch foods.
- 160 **'Dental Service Display'**, c. 1986  
paper  
11.0 × 11.5 cm  
HFA4690  
Women's Expo in Stawell, with Lisa Hall (dental nurse), Mary Pierce (dental therapist) and Libby Mears (dental therapist).
- 161 *The Border Mail* (est. 1903)  
**'Posters brighten the day'**, 8 Aug. 1987  
paper  
13.0 × 14.0 cm  
HFA4697  
Newspaper article on dental therapist Sarah Greene's visit to Wodonga West Primary School during National Dental Health Week.
- 162 Department of Health, Victoria  
**Health Victoria Newsletter**, Oct./Nov. 1987  
paper  
33.5 × 28.0 cm  
HFA4681  
**'Five new vans hit the road'**, dental therapist Eleanor Perich and dental nurse Edith Anderson in dental van at Holy Eucharist Primary School, St Albans. **'School's in for Dental Therapy'**, first-year dental therapy cadets James McLetchie and Delwyn Organ in the Dental Therapy School clinic, St Kilda Road. **'Visit to Plaque House'**, Dr Pamela Daniel, dental officer in charge of Dental Health Education, and three pupils from St Benedict Primary School, Burwood.
- 163 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Program for ninth graduation of dental therapists**, 14 Dec. 1987  
card  
21.0 × 15.0 cm  
HFA4496
- 164 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year students, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1988–89**, 1988  
photograph  
10.2 × 15.0 cm  
HFA4393  
Includes: Caitlin Oakley, Andrea Van Leemput, Robyn Ackland, Fiona Adams, Sherie Mannix, Gabrielle O'Dwyer.
- 165 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year students, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1988–89**, 1988  
photograph  
15.0 × 10.0 cm  
HFA4459  
Caitlin Oakley, Andrea Van Leemput, Robyn Ackland, Fiona Adams, Sherie Mannix, Gabrielle O'Dwyer.
- 166 Department of Health, Victoria  
Education Department of Victoria  
**The School Canteen: Canteen Guidelines for School Communities**, 1988  
paper, metal, plastic  
29.0 × 21.0 cm  
HFA4656
- 167 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Concept drawings for the Plaque Shuttle**, 1988  
paper  
29.0 × 21.0 cm  
HFA4657  
The shuttle was a large three-dimensional tent in the shape of a space shuttle. It was dark inside and with the help of a mirror and fluorescent disclosing solution, children could see the plaque on their teeth under UV light.  
(see page 63)
- 168 Australian Nutrition Foundation  
Victorian Division Inc. (est. 1979)  
Victorian Dairy Industry Authority (VDIA)(est. 1977)  
**Nutrition '88 ... Nutrition Week Sept 4th–10th**, 1988  
gloss paper  
42.0 × 59.5 cm  
HFA4666  
Article on dentist Dr Pamela Daniel joining VDIA to establish its new secondary school dental/milk service, to run in conjunction with the existing service for primary schools.
- 169 Victorian Dairy Industry Authority (VDIA)(est. 1977)  
**VDIA News**, Jun. 1988  
gloss paper, metal  
29.5 × 21.0 cm  
HFA4665
- 170 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Dr John Chapman's (1928–2020), retirement event**, 1989  
photograph  
8.8 × 12.6 cm  
HFA4545
- 171 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Dental assistant Cheryl Whitworth and dental therapist Andrea Fraser (née Mcguane) in School Dental Service van**, 1989  
photograph  
9.0 × 14.0 cm  
HFA4449
- 172 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Dental therapist Anne O'Brien treating child patient**, 1989  
photograph  
9.0 × 14.0 cm  
HFA4450
- 173 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Dental therapists in clinic**, 1989  
photograph  
9.0 × 14.0 cm  
HFA4455

- 174 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Graduation, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1988–89**, 1989  
photograph  
10.2 × 15.0 cm  
HFA4394  
Includes: Caitlin Oakley, Andrea Van Leemput, Robyn Ackland, Fiona Adams, Sherie Mannix, Gabrielle O'Dwyer.
- 175 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year students, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1989–90**, 1989  
photograph  
25.3 × 20.3 cm  
HFA4395
- 176 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Students providing care to child patients**, 1989  
photograph  
12.6 × 9.0 cm  
HFA4538  
The Dental Therapy School had a 60-chair dental clinic for children in which dental therapists trained in clinical dental skills. Busloads of children arrived for treatment under the supervision of dentist demonstrators.
- 177 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Clinical demonstrators Brian Grant and Jim Lowther, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy)**, 1989  
photograph  
9.0 × 12.6 cm  
HFA4540
- 178 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Clinical demonstrators David Muirhead and Lawrie Gaggero, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy)**, 1989  
photograph  
9.0 × 12.6 cm  
HFA4541
- 179 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Program for tenth graduation of dental therapists**, 15 Dec. 1989  
card  
21.0 × 15.0 cm  
HFA4497
- 180 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Michael Hollis with two dental therapists in front of Victorian School Dental Service van**, c. 1989  
photograph  
9.0 × 14.0 cm  
HFA4445  
Michael Hollis was the chief dental officer of the Victorian School Dental Service during 1989–93.
- 181 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Victorian School Dental Service van**, c. 1989  
photograph  
9.0 × 14.0 cm  
HFA4446
- 182 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Michael Hollis with dental therapists in front of Victorian School Dental Service van**, c. 1989  
photograph  
9.0 × 14.0 cm  
HFA4447
- 183 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Program for 11th graduation, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy)**, 13 Dec. 1990  
card  
21.0 × 15.0 cm  
HFA4498
- 184 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Dr Brian Andrews treating child patient in the School Dental Service van, East Gippsland**, c. 1990  
photograph  
9.0 × 14.0 cm  
HFA4454
- 185 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Male student, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy)**, c. 1990  
photograph  
12.5 × 9.0 cm  
HFA4458
- 186 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Dental therapist treating child in the School Dental Service van**, c. 1990  
photograph, plastic, velcro  
29.4 × 20.7 cm  
HFA4612
- 187 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**Pam Leong providing oral health information at a Parents, Babies and Children's Show, Melbourne Exhibition Building**, c. 1990  
photograph, plastic, velcro  
20.7 × 29.4 cm  
HFA4613
- 188 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year students, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1991–92**, 1991  
photograph  
10.0 × 15.0 cm  
HFA4554  
Left to right, back row: Carol Cooper, Katherine Lilburn, Andrea Boseley, Maria Wendel, Jenny Juschkat, Naomi Clark. Front row: Johanne Plunkett, Loretta Sutcliffe, Lidija Susanj, Heather Yoxall, Jenny Engassner.  
(see page 22)

Cat. 155 Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria, **'School Dental Service "The Three Little Pigs" poster**, 1985, gloss paper. HFA4720, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.





- 189 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year students, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1991–92**, 1991  
photograph  
12.6 × 17.3 cm  
HFA4609  
Left to right, back row: Carol Cooper, Jenny Engassner, Maria Wendel, Heather Yoxall.  
Front row: Naomi Clarke, Sonia Maggio, Johanne Plunkett, Jenny Juschkat, Andrea Boseley.
- 190 Victorian School Canteen Association (VSCA)  
**Victorian School Canteen Association information package**, 1 Oct. 1991  
paper  
29.5 × 21.0 cm  
HFA4654
- 191 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Program for 12th graduation, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy)**, 13 Dec. 1991  
card  
21.0 × 15.0 cm  
HFA4499
- 192 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Graduation, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1991–92**, 1992  
photograph  
12.6 × 17.4 cm  
HFA4396  
Left to right, back row: Andrea Boseley, Johanne Plunkett, Carol Cooper (Smith), Loretta Sutcliffe, Lidija Susanj, Libby Mears (lecturer).  
Front row: Catherine Thompson (lecturer), Jenny Engassner (Wilson), Jenny Juschkat, Maria Wendel, Heather Yoxall, Wendy Meers (lecturer & senior DT).
- 193 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Graduation, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1991–92**, 1992  
photograph  
10.0 × 15.0 cm  
HFA4397  
Loretta Sutcliffe, Carol Cooper (Smith), Andrea Boseley.
- 194 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Christine Millsteed (Department of Health), Hanny Calache (Principal, School of Dental Therapy) and Libby Mears at the graduation of Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy)**, 1992  
photograph  
10.1 × 15 cm  
HFA4608
- 195 Victorian Government  
**Dentists Regulations 1992 S.R. No. 328/1992 Part 5—Dental Auxiliaries. Division 1—Dental Therapists**, 1992  
paper  
29.5 × 21.0 cm  
HFA4155  
Section of the *Dentists Act 1992* pertaining to dental therapists following revision of the 1972 Act after a 20-year sunset.
- 196 Australian Nutrition Foundation Victorian Division Inc. (est. 1979)  
**‘What’s in Your Food?’ Proceedings of the Public Forum held on World Food Day**, 16 Oct. 1992  
paper, plastic, card  
29.5 × 21.5 × 0.3 cm  
HFA4152
- 197 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**‘Anatomy’, Dental Therapy School teaching notes, 1992–93**, 1992  
paper, card  
29.5 × 21.0 × 1.5 cm  
HFA4154
- 198 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year students, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1992–93**, 1992  
photograph  
10.0 × 15.0 cm  
HFA4399  
Left to right, back row: Joanne Prest, Kerry Dickson, Joanne Blizzard, Jenny Bray, Gabrielle Silver, Sharlene Bevington, Naomi Phillips.  
Front row: Mina Stathis, Leanne Stanton, Tien Dang, Elizabeth Simpson, Trina Corneillie.
- 199 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Graduation, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1992–93**, 1993  
photograph  
20.4 × 25.0 cm  
HFA4398  
Left to right, back row: Trina Corneille, Gabrielle Silver, Kerry Dickson, Sarlene Bevington, Joanne Blizzard, Naomi Phillips, Tien Dang.  
Front row: Joanne Prest, Mina Stathis, Jenny Bray, Leanne Stanton, Elizabeth Simpson.
- 200 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year students, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1993–94**, 1993  
photograph  
10.0 × 15.0 cm  
HFA4401  
Left to right, back row: Claudia Falcon, Jenny Attard, Paula Giobbi, Georgia Batchelor, Ronald Lopez, Sahlee Segundo. Front row: Maree Saxon, Julie Norris, Elizabeth Smith, Karen McGuane, Karen Pietersz, Helen Hyndman.
- 201 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year dental therapy student Maree Saxon taking a radiograph of a child patient in clinic**, 1993  
photograph  
15.0 × 10.0 cm  
HFA4402
- 202 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year dental therapy student Karen McGuane treating child patient in clinic**, 1993  
photograph  
15.0 × 10.0 cm  
HFA4403
- 203 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year dental therapy student Ronald Lopez demonstrating oral hygiene and treating a child patient in clinic**, 1993  
photograph  
15.0 × 10.0 cm  
HFA4404
- 204 Dental Health Services, Department of Health and Community Services, Victoria  
**Dental Health Education: A Curriculum Approach, Prep to Year Six**, 1993  
cardboard, paper  
29.5 × 21.0 × 1.0 cm  
Gift of Victorian Dental Therapist Association, 2023  
HFA4504  
Activity pack with booklet and 31 worksheets for dental therapists to educate primary school children. (see page 77)
- 205 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy) course outline**, 1993  
card, paper, metal  
29.6 × 21.0 cm  
HFA4614
- 206 Victorian Government  
**Dentists Act 1972. Act No. 8287/1972, Reprint No. 2**, 1993  
The Law Printer, Printing and Publishing Services Victoria, Melbourne (est. 1990)  
card, paper, metal  
25.0 × 17.5 × 0.3 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4616
- 207 Australian Dental Therapists Association (ADTA)  
**ADTA Newsletter**, Jul. 1993  
paper  
21.0 × 15.0 cm
- HFA4706  
First issue of ADTA’s new-look newsletter.
- 208 Libby Mears  
**‘An Evaluation of Dental Care Provided by Dental Health Services: A Consumers Perspective’**, 1994  
card, paper, plastic  
30.0 × 23.0 × 0.8 cm  
signed on contents page *Julie Satur*  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4405  
Libby Mears’ research report details a 1993 evaluation of clients’ perceptions regarding aspects of the School Dental Service in the Western Metropolitan area of Melbourne.
- 209 Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA)  
**Dental Auxiliary Workforce Submission**, 1994  
card, paper, plastic  
29.2 × 21.0 × 0.4 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4412  
Submission to the Victorian Government making recommendations on the future of the dental auxiliary workforce and associated legislative change required for Victoria. (see page 37)
- 210 Bob Burgell, Manager, Education Liaison, Department of Health and Community Services, Victoria  
**Letter to Professor Clive Wright, Dean of the School of Dental Science, from H&CS regarding submissions from educational providers interested in delivering Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy)**, 9 Feb. 1994  
paper  
30.0 × 21.0 cm  
signed *Bob Burgell*  
HFA4488
- 211 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Submission to the Victorian Department of Health and Community Services for Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy)**, 25 Feb. 1994  
paper  
29.8 × 21.0 cm  
Signed *Professor Graeme B Ryan*  
HFA4475
- 212 Professor Graeme B Ryan, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
The Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne (est. 1890)  
**Submission to the Department of Health and Community Services regarding delivery of Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy)**, 25 Feb. 1994  
paper  
29.8 × 21.0 cm  
Signed *Professor Graeme B Ryan*  
HFA4475
- 213 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Program for 14th graduation of dental therapists, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy)**, 4 Mar. 1994  
card  
21.0 × 15.0 cm  
HFA4500
- 214 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**First-year students, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1995–96**, 1995  
photograph  
10.0 × 15.0 cm  
HFA4416  
Left to right, back row includes: Sandra Martin, Katrina Nguyen, Jane Elizabeth Kelly, Vikki Sotiropoulos. Front row includes: Jacqueline (Jacqui) May Corbett, Ibtissam Hawli, Aimee Ryan (Bronnd).

- 215 Victorian Government  
**Dentists Act no. 8287/1972. Amending Legislation 69/1994 Dentists (Amendment) Act. TLP Update Current to 31/12/1994, 1995**  
The Law Printer, Printing and Publishing Services Victoria, Melbourne (est. 1990)  
card, paper, metal  
25.0 × 17.5 × 0.1 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4617
- 216 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Dental Science Undergraduate Course Guides (including Diploma in Oral Health Therapy), 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001**  
card, cloth binding, paper  
29.5 × 21.0 × 0.6 cm  
HFA4148
- 217 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Dental Science Course Guide, Diploma in Oral Health Therapy, vol. 2, 1996**  
card, paper, metal  
29.6 × 21.0 cm  
signed on cover *Usha Vallabh*  
HFA4615
- 218 Victorian School Dental Service, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria  
**School Dental Service Milestones, 1996**  
paper and transparency film  
29.5 × 21.0 cm  
HFA4156  
Presentation on the Victorian School Dental Service, including its history.
- 219 *The Herald Sun* (est. 1855)  
**'Children's smiles are getting brighter', 25 Mar. 1996**  
paper  
40.5 × 29.3 cm  
Gift of Victorian Dental Therapist Association, 2023  
HFA4490  
Newspaper article about children's improved dental health as one of
- the great public-health success stories of the previous 20 years. Features dental therapist Libby Mears demonstrating oral hygiene to a child patient.  
(see page 65)
- 220 Dental Board of Victoria (est. 1887, closed 1999)  
**A Guide for Dentists Dental Therapists Dental Hygienists, 1997**  
card, paper, tape  
29.9 × 21 × 0.7 cm  
signed on page 1 *Julie Satur*  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4406
- 221 Victorian Women's Trust (VWT, est. 1985)  
**Victorian Women's Trust: 1996–1997, Twelfth Annual Report, 1997**  
card, paper  
29.6 × 21.0 × 0.3 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4415  
The Victorian Dental Therapist Association received a grant of \$11,000 to advocate on behalf of dental therapists and raise the profile of the profession.  
(see page 41)
- 222 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Academic staff and students at graduation, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1995–96, 1997**  
photograph  
20.4 × 25.5 cm  
HFA4417  
Left to right, back row: Mark Gussy (lecturer), Laura Baltutis (lecturer), Liz Senior (tutor), Jacqueline (Jacqui) May Corbett, Aimee Ryan (Bronnd), Katrina Nguyen, Ibtissam Hawli, Vikki Sotiropoulos, Sandra Martin, Jane Elizabeth Kelly.  
Front row includes: Leonie Short, guest speaker (senior lecturer in Oral Health, School of Public Health, Queensland University of Technology), Robert Doyle, guest of honour (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health, Department of Human Services),
- Professor FAC (Clive) Wright (head of Dental Science, University of Melbourne), Hanny Calache (course convenor).
- 223 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Graduation, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1995–96, 1997**  
photograph  
20.4 × 25.5 cm  
HFA4418  
Left to right: Sandra Martin, Katrina Nguyen, Vikki Sotiropoulos, Aimee Ryan (Bronnd), Jacqueline (Jacqui) May Corbett, Jane Elizabeth Kelly, Ibtissam Hawli. Geoffrey Wylie Conference Centre, Royal Melbourne Dental Hospital, 711 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.
- 224 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Invitation to graduation ceremony, Diploma of Applied Sciences (Dental Therapy), 1995–96, 1997**  
card  
10.5 × 14.5 cm  
HFA4419  
Invitation to the ceremony for the first group of students graduating from the Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy) at the University of Melbourne.
- 225 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Diploma in Oral Health Therapy students, first cohort, 1997**  
photograph  
20.0 × 25.5 cm  
HFA4421  
Left to right, back row: Regina Baldassarre, Trisha Stephenson, Evelyn McAlister, Vivienne Bidaud, Kathleen Colton, Virginia Deigan, Shiralee Davis, Clarissa Lamp, Houda El Houli, Pamela Leong.  
Middle row: Tran Pham, Chau Tran, Rebecca McCombe, Danielle Marshall. Front row: Amber Yeo, Kirsty Reid.  
(see page 47)
- 226 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**First cohort of dental therapists and dental hygienist students, Diploma in Oral Health Therapy, 1997**  
photograph  
20.0 × 25.5 cm  
HFA4422
- 227 Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council  
**'Options for a Dental Auxiliary Role', Jan. 1997**  
paper, plastic  
31.0 × 23.0 × 0.7 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4441  
Submission by a working group (Braham Pearlman, Hanny Calache, Leonie Short, Julie Satur) for a project to pilot a dental auxiliary.
- 228 *The Herald Sun* (est. 1855)  
**'Pull the other one', 20 Feb. 1997**  
paper  
16.3 × 8.6 cm  
inscribed *affront to profession misinformation & lies, Thurs Feb 20*  
Gift of Victorian Dental Therapist Association, 2023  
HFA4491  
Opinion piece on plans of Victorian and NSW Health Departments to run pilot programs at community health centres.
- 229 *The Herald Sun* (est. 1855)  
**'Death fear in dental row', 20 Feb. 1997**  
paper  
12.7 × 9.4 cm  
inscribed *20.2.97 Herald Sun*  
Gift of Victorian Dental Therapist Association, 2023  
HFA4492  
Article about Victorian and NSW government plans to pilot programs at community health centres to treat pensioners, unemployed and low-income earners. Australian Dental Association president, Anne-Marie Vincent, warns 'it would be dangerous to allow therapists to do fillings, extractions, give
- injections and perform basic orthodontic work for public dental patients'. Julie Satur, Victorian Dental Therapist Association vice-president, said 'there had been no question about the quality of their work for 20 years ... Dental disease has been significantly lowered by Dental Therapists work and this pilot wants to apply the success of that model to the adult sector where the need is huge.'  
(see page 57)
- 230 *The Herald Sun* (est. 1855)  
**'Non-dentists to treat poor patients', 20 Feb. 1997**  
paper  
8.5 × 24.5 cm  
Gift of Victorian Dental Therapist Association, 2023  
HFA4493  
Article about plans of Victorian and NSW Health Departments to run pilot programs at community health centres.
- 231 Professor FAC (Clive) Wright, Head, School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Graduation of dental therapy students, outline of proceedings, 1 Mar. 1997**  
paper  
29.6 × 21.0 cm  
signed *FAC Wright*  
HFA4503
- 232 Professor Hanny Calache, Convenor, Diploma in Oral Health Therapy, School of Dental Science, University of Melbourne  
**Speech notes for students' graduation, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), Mar. 1997**  
paper  
29.6 × 21.0 cm  
HFA4675
- 233 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Program for 16th graduation of dental therapists, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy)**
- 1995–96, 7 Mar. 1997  
card  
21.0 × 15.0 cm  
HFA4420  
Guest of honour Mr Robert Doyle (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health, Department of Human Services), guest speaker Leonie Short (senior lecturer in Oral Health, School of Public Health, Queensland University of Technology).
- 234 *The Herald Sun* (est. 1855)  
**'New teeth into the subject', 8 Aug. 1997**  
paper  
21.0 × 14.5 cm  
HFA4710  
Article announcing the first group of university-trained oral health therapists to complete their course at the University of Melbourne.  
(see page 49)
- 235 Department of Health and Community Services, Victoria  
**Review of Dentists Act 1972 and Dental Technicians Act 1972, Dec. 1997**  
card, paper  
29.9 × 21 × 0.4 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4407
- 236 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Graduation of dental therapist and dental hygienist students, Diploma in Oral Health Therapy, 1996–97, 1998**  
photograph  
12.5 × 17.5 cm  
HFA4423  
Left to right, back row: Tran Pham (DT), Vivienne Bidaud (DH), Carolyn Marshall (DH), Clarissa Lamp (DT), Pamela Leong (DT), Kathleen Colton (DH), Fiona Etherton (DT), Evelyn McAlister (DH), Chau Tran (DT), Maria Dimos (DH), Danielle Marshall (DT). Front row: Shiralee Davis (DH), Trisha Stephenson (DH), Rebecca McCombe (DT), Wendy Parish (DH), Houda El Houli (DT), Kirsty Reid (DH).

- 237 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Academic staff attending the Diploma in Oral Health Therapy graduation, 1996–97**, 1998  
photograph  
12.5 × 17.5 cm  
verso *WJ-80-35*  
HFA4424  
Left to right: Julie Owen (lecturer), Julie Satur (lecturer), Hanny Calache (course convenor), Laura Baltutis (lecturer), Liz Senior (tutor).
- 238 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Invitation to graduation ceremony of dental therapists and hygienists, Diploma in Oral Health Therapy, 1996–97**, 1998  
card  
10.5 × 14.5 cm  
HFA4425
- 239 Oral Health Therapy Students' Society, University of Melbourne  
**Oral Health Therapy: 1998 Counter Handbook**, 1998  
paper  
29.5 × 21.0 cm  
HFA4149  
The society's information on the subjects and lecturers for students enrolled in the diploma course at the university's School of Dental Science.
- 240 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Mr Robert Doyle at the graduation ceremony of dental therapists and hygienists, Diploma in Oral Health Therapy**, 27 Feb. 1998  
photograph  
17.5 × 12.5 cm  
HFA4513  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health, Department of Human Services, at the first graduation of the diploma course with two streams: dental therapy and dental hygiene.
- 241 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne
- Program for first graduation ceremony for dental therapists and dental hygienists, Diploma in Oral Health Therapy, 1996–97**, 27 Feb. 1998  
card  
21.0 × 15.0 cm  
HFA4501  
Guest of honour, Mr Robert Doyle (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health, Department of Human Services), guest speaker, Associate Professor Susan Elliot.
- 242 Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA)  
**'Oral Health: A Right Not a Luxury. Submission to the Review of the Dentists Act 1972 and the Dental Technicians Act 1972 by the Victorian Dental Therapist Association'**, Mar. 1998  
card, paper  
30.0 × 21.2 × 0.4 cm  
inscribed on contents page *Julie Satur*  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4409  
(see page 39)
- 243 Julie Satur, President, Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA)  
**VDTA members information pack for 'Oral Health: A Right Not a Luxury' submission**, 27 Apr. 1998  
paper  
30.0 × 21.0 cm  
signed *Julie Satur*  
Gift of Victorian Dental Therapist Association, 2023  
HFA4486  
Documents sent by VDTA to its members as part of the campaign to review the *Dentists Act 1972* and the *Dental Technicians Act 1972*.
- 244 Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA)  
**Press release, 'End Closed Shop Say Dental Therapists', launch of 'Oral Health: A Right Not a Luxury'**, 5 May 1998  
paper  
30.0 × 21.0 cm  
Gift of Victorian Dental Therapist Association, 2023  
HFA4485
- 245 Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA)  
**VDTA Newsletter**, May 1998  
paper  
29.5 × 21.0 cm  
HFA4707  
President Julie Satur appears in the media discussing the review of the *Dentist Act 1972* and *Dental Technicians Act 1972*, just prior to the final report's submission in July 1998.
- 246 Department of Health and Community Services, Victoria  
**'Review of Dentist Act 1972 and Dental Technicians Act 1972, Final Report, July 1998'**, 1998  
card, paper  
29.5 × 21 × 0.4 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4408
- 247 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Academic staff at the graduation ceremony of dental therapists and dental hygienists, Diploma in Oral Health Therapy**, 1999  
photograph  
17.7 × 12.6 cm  
HFA4619  
Left to right, back row: Werner Bischof, Mike Morgan. Middle row: Jack Gerchman, Mark Gussy, Laura Baltutis, Hanny Calache (course convenor). Front row: Elizabeth Senior, Julie Owen, Julie Satur.  
(see page 51)
- 248 Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA)  
**VDTA response to the second draft of the Dental Practice Act 1999: 11/1/99**, 11 Jan. 1999  
paper  
30.0 × 21.0 cm  
Gift of Victorian Dental Therapist Association, 2023  
HFA4482
- 249 Julie Satur, President, Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA)  
**Correspondence to Robert Doyle, parliamentary secretary and chair of the dental legislation review panel, from Julie Satur, president of VDTA**, 12 Jan. 1999  
paper, metal  
30.0 × 21.0 cm  
Gift of Victorian Dental Therapist Association, 2023  
HFA4440
- 250 Victorian Government  
**Dental Practice Bill, Explanatory Memorandum 23/4/99**, Apr. 1999  
Government Printer for the State of Victoria  
paper, metal  
25.0 × 17.5 × 0.6 cm  
inscribed *Julie – many thanks Robert Doyle*  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4618  
Explains the purposes of the Bill, including repealing the *Dentists Act 1972* and the *Dental Technicians Act 1972*.
- 251 *The Courier Ballarat* (est. 1867)  
**'Therapists want more of the market'**, 13 May 1999  
paper  
30.0 × 21.0 cm  
Gift of Victorian Dental Therapist Association, 2023  
HFA4483
- 252 *The Herald Sun* (est. 1855)  
**'Job therapy'**, 21 Aug. 1999  
paper  
21.0 × 10.0 cm  
Gift of Victorian Dental Therapist Association, 2023  
HFA4481  
Article from the 'Employment Healthcare' supplement urging dentists to hire more dental therapists following legal changes to the *Dental Practice Act 1999*.
- 253 Julie Satur, Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA)  
**Correspondence to The Hon. John Thwaites, Minister for Health, Victoria, from Julie Satur, president, VDTA**, 23 Oct. 1999  
paper  
30.0 × 21.0 cm  
signed *Julie Satur*  
Gift of Victorian Dental Therapist Association, 2023  
HFA4484
- 254 Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA)  
**'Great Smile! Who Is Your Dental Therapist?' pamphlet**, c. 1999  
card  
21.0 × 9.9 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4620  
(see page 75)
- 255 Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA)  
**'Great Smile. Who's Your Dental Therapist?' cap**, c. 1999  
cotton, metal, plastic, ink  
12.0 × 20.0 × 25.0 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur (née Smedley), 2023  
HFA4427  
VDTA awareness-raising initiative distributed 'Great Smile. Who's Your Dental Therapist?' stickers, keyrings and caps.  
(see page 7)
- 256 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Academic staff for the Diploma in Oral Health Therapy**, 2000  
photograph  
12.5 × 17.7 cm  
HFA4515  
Left to right, back row: Suzi Lightfoot-Brown, Jack Gerchman, Elishka Marvan, Mike Morgan (Deputy Head of School), Eric Reynolds (Head of the Melbourne Dental School). Front row: Julie Fraser, Hanny Calache (course convenor), Mark Gussy, Julie Owen, Julie Satur.
- 257 Kilgore International (est. 1955)  
**Oversized white toothbrush**, c. 2000s  
plastic, nylon  
22.0 × 2.0 × 3.0 cm  
HFA3157  
Toothbrush used to demonstrate proper brushing techniques, used in conjunction with full-mouth dental model.
- 258 Kilgore International (est. 1955)  
**Paediatric tooth brushing model P3B-702**, c. 2000s  
plastic, metal
- 10.1 × 12.6 × 15.8 cm  
HFA3159  
Large model of teeth in upper and lower arches, opens to demonstrate oral health instruction and proper brushing and flossing methods.
- 259 Classic Studios Pty Ltd Photography (Melbourne)  
School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Graduation of dental therapist and dental hygienist students, Diploma in Oral Health Therapy**, 2001  
photograph  
12.7 × 17.1 cm  
HFA4514  
Left to right, back row: Leisha Senior, Shayne Sewgoolam, Sarah Laing, Yvette Rainbow, Rebecca Cleeland, Lucyanne Garro, Jane Irving, Natalie Knodos, Annabelle Harris. Front row: Julie Truong, Kim Wilson, Anita Middleton, Lidia Cirdei, Erin Barker, Dimitrios Androutsopoulos, Kate Anderson, Christine Gronow.
- 260 Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA)  
**Submission to the Dental Practice Board of Victoria for the Codes of Practice**, Apr. 2001  
card, paper, plastic  
29.6 × 21.2 × 0.4 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4410
- 261 Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch Inc. (est. 1991)  
**DPBV Draft Code of Practice 'Practice of Dentistry by Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists'**, 2002  
card, paper, plastic  
29.8 × 21.8 × 0.2 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4411  
The Dental Practice Board of Victoria was abolished in 2010.
- 262 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Students of dental therapy and hygiene, Diploma in Oral Health Therapy**, 2002

- photograph  
21.0 × 29.0 cm  
HFA4426  
Left to right, back row: Nellie Troch, Selai Safi, Kerrie Pausesi, Hanny Calache, Carla Di Costa. Front row: Mercedes Mambourt, Linda Ngo, Jenny Crawford, Meghan Cumming, Helen Stuart, Natalie Bright, Sally Whincup. In absentia: Carly Trill, Monica Cain, Chelsea Clark, Bajram Bajrani, Rebecca Hariss, Liz Norden, Sophie Oostemeyer, Angie Tattersall, Laura Wegman, Wendy Zheng.
- 263 Julie Satur  
**‘Australian dental policy reform and the use of dental therapists and hygienists’, 2002**  
card, paper, plastic  
29.9 × 21.0 × 2.7 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4432  
PhD thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Deakin University, Dec. 2002.
- 264 Loula Rodopulos, Adjunct Professor, RMIT University and member of the Victorian Dental Practice Board  
**Graduation ceremony address for the Diploma in Oral Health Therapy, 15 Feb. 2002**  
paper  
29.6 × 21.0 cm  
HFA4502
- 265 Classic Studios Pty Ltd Photography (Melbourne)  
School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Graduation of dental therapist and hygienist students, Diploma in Oral Health Therapy, 14 Feb. 2003**  
photograph  
12.2 × 17.4 cm  
HFA4519  
Left to right, back row: Philippa Mackie, Kristina Tan, Shirani Marks, Andrea Kleman, Anita Barabas, Durkashini Jegatheesan, Belinda Mitten. Front row: Kim Sanderson, Katrina Nguyen, Melissa Huynh, Emily Jones, Jane Irving, Vasiliki Giannatselis, Mariam Botros, Darren Lappen.
- 266 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Program for graduation ceremony, Diploma in Oral Health Therapy, Feb. 2003**  
card  
21.0 × 15.0 cm  
HFA4522
- 267 Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council (AHMAC)  
**Draft outline paper, ‘Oral Health Workforce—Dentists Achieving Adequacy and Sustainability’, Oct. 2003**  
paper  
29.5 × 21.0 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4151  
Produced by Tasmanian subcommittee, AHWOC/NACOH, for an AHMAC meeting.
- 268 Classic Studios Pty Ltd Photography (Melbourne)  
School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Graduation, Diploma in Oral Health Therapy, students with Victorian Minister of Health Bronwyn Pike, 2004**  
photograph  
12.5 × 17.1 cm  
HFA4523  
(see page 53)
- 269 Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Academic staff and guests at Diploma in Oral Health Therapy graduation, 2004**  
photograph  
12.5 × 17.7 cm  
HFA4524  
Left to right: Professor FAC (Clive) Wright (previous dean and head of the Melbourne Dental School), Professor Jim Angus (Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences), Bronwyn Pike (Minister for Health), Professor Eric Reynolds (Head of the Melbourne Dental School), Professor Hanny Calache (course convenor).
- 270 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Ross Green, president of Australian Dental Association Victoria, awarding graduating student from the Diploma in Oral Health Therapy, 2004**  
photograph  
12.5 × 17.8 cm  
HFA4527
- 271 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Jackie Robinson (Colgate) and Julia Gellatly at Diploma in Oral Health Therapy graduation, 2004**  
photograph  
12.6 × 17.6 cm  
HFA4546
- 272 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Academic staff at Diploma in Oral Health Therapy graduation, 2005**  
photograph  
12.1 × 17.6 cm  
HFA4521  
Left to right, back row: Julie Owen, Bronwyn Barrow, Sherie Blackwell, Antonietta Anello, Usha Vallabh, Hanny Calache (course convenor). Front row: Genevieve Marks, Julie Satur, Mark Gussy.
- 273 School of Dental Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
**Academic staff from the School of Dental Science, c. 2005**  
photograph  
10.5 × 15.5 cm  
HFA4528
- 274 Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists’ Association (ADOHTA)  
**‘Lessons from the Past: Shaping Our Future’, brochure for the inaugural conference of ADOHTA, 2006**  
paper, card  
29.5 × 21.0 cm  
HFA4150
- 275 The Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne (est. 1890)  
Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV)  
University of Melbourne  
**‘The capacity of dental therapists to provide direct restorative care to adults’, 2007**  
card, paper, plastic  
29.6 × 21.3 × 0.6 cm  
signed on contents page *Julie Satur*  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4413  
Report on the results of a clinical trial assessing the capacity of dental therapists to provide direct restorative care to adults older than 25 years of age.
- 276 Australian and New Zealand Journal of Dental and Oral Health Therapy (ANZJDOHT)  
**Australian and New Zealand Journal of Dental and Oral Health Therapy, vol. 1, no. 1, 2012**  
paper  
29.5 × 21.0 cm  
HFA4708
- 277 Professor Julie Satur  
Melbourne Dental School, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne (est. 1904)  
**Dental Alumni Newsletter, no. 22, 2015**  
paper  
29.6 × 21.0 cm  
HFA4494  
Article on the requirement of Bachelor of Oral Health students to undertake a research project with a public health focus.
- 278 Australian and New Zealand Journal of Dental and Oral Health Therapy (ANZJDOHT)  
**Australian and New Zealand Journal of Dental and Oral Health Therapy, special edition, Sept. 2015**  
paper  
29.5 × 21.0 cm  
HFA4709  
Special edition, with abstracts from the ‘50 Years of Dental Therapy in Australia’ conference.  
(see page viii)
- 279 Engage Media (est. 2005)  
**Bite Magazine, 2022**  
paper  
29.9 × 21.0 × 0.3 cm  
Gift of Julie Satur, 2023  
HFA4414  
Contains an article by John Burfitt, titled ‘Setting a new course’, on the new curriculum for dental schools created by Professor Julie Satur and focusing on the needs of Indigenous Australians.  
(see page iv)
- 280 Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV)  
**Smile Squad’s ‘Free Dental, Eat Well, Drink Well, Clean Well’ dental pack, 2023**  
plastic, paper, toothpaste  
various  
HFA4529  
Smile Squad is the Victorian government’s free school dental program led by the Department of Health and Dental Health Services Victoria. It delivers oral health promotion, dental check-ups and treatment of students at state schools.
- 281 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Dental therapist cadet badge, 1977–78**  
metal  
1.2 × 7.5 cm  
Loaned by Debra Brighton (née De Bondt)  
Worn by Debra De Bondt, graduate of the Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1978.  
(see page 20)
- 282 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Dental therapist cadet badge, 1977–78**  
metal  
1.2 × 6.5 cm  
Loaned by Debra Brighton (née De Bondt)  
Worn by Debra De Bondt, graduate of the Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1978.
- 283 **Dental therapist Victoria badge, 1979**  
metal  
2.6 × 3.5 cm  
Loaned by Debra Brighton  
Worn by dental therapists working in the Victorian public service.  
(see page 20)
- 284 Dental Health Services, Department of Health Victoria  
**Dental therapist badge, c. 1980**  
metal, plastic  
2.6 × 7.4 cm  
Loaned by Debra Brighton  
(see page 20)
- 285 Florgale Uniforms  
**Dental therapist’s clinical gown, c. 1980–90**  
cotton, plastic  
Loaned by Debra Brighton  
Worn by Debra Brighton (née De Bondt), graduate of the Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy) in 1978.
- 286 Florgale Uniforms  
**Dental therapist’s clinical trousers, c. 1980–90**  
polyester, viscose, metal, plastic  
various  
Loaned by Debra Brighton  
Worn by Debra Brighton (née De Bondt), graduate of the Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy) in 1978.
- 287 Bromley  
**Dental therapist’s cardigan, c. 1980–90**  
polyester, plastic  
various  
Loaned by Debra Brighton  
Worn by Debra Brighton (née De Bondt), graduate of the Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy) in 1978.
- 288 Neat & Trim Career Wear  
**Dental therapist’s clinical dress, c. 1980–90**  
polyester, cotton, plastic, metal  
various  
Loaned by Debra Brighton  
Worn by Debra Brighton (née De Bondt), graduate of the Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy) in 1978.

289 Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV)  
**'Teeth for Life' dental therapist badge**, c. 1990  
metal, plastic  
4.0 × 7.5 cm  
Loaned by Debra Brighton  
Worn by dental therapists working in DHSV.  
(see page 20)

290 Australian Dental Therapists Association (ADTA)  
**ADTA badge**, c. 1990  
metal, enamel  
3.0 × 3.0 cm  
Loaned by Debra Brighton  
(see page 45)

291 Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU)  
**CPSU badge**, c. 1990  
metal  
2.0 × 1.8 cm  
Loaned by Debra Brighton  
Until July 2000, dental therapists in most Australian states were limited to public sector employment in the School Dental Service, providing dental care under the general supervision of a dentist and with the assistance of a dental nurse.

292 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), conferred to Glenys Margaret Webb**, 16 Dec. 1977  
paper  
27.5 × 20.0 cm  
Loaned by Glenys Barnes (née Webb)  
(see page 31)

293 Dental Board of Victoria (est. 1887, closed 1999)  
**School dental therapist's licence of Glenys Margaret Webb, no. 53**, 19 Dec. 1977  
paper  
27.5 × 20.0 cm  
Loaned by Glenys Barnes (née Webb)

294 Dental Board of Victoria (est. 1887, closed 1999)  
**'Conditions applicable to a licenced School Dental Therapist'**, 19 Dec. 1977  
paper  
27.5 × 20.0 cm  
Loaned by Glenys Barnes (née Webb)

295 Commonwealth of Australia, Australian Dental Services Advisory Council  
**National Award in Dental Therapy, conferred to Glenys Margaret Webb**, 28 Feb. 1980  
paper  
29.5 × 21.0 cm  
Loaned by Glenys Barnes (née Webb)

296 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Academic records, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy)**, 1977-79  
fabric, card, ink, paper, metal  
25.0 × 30.0 × 4.5 cm  
Loaned by Julie Satur  
Academic records for dental therapy 'cadets' training at the Dental Therapy School, 448 St Kilda Road, Melbourne between 1977 and 1979.

297 Dental Therapy School, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Academic records for 1980-83, 1987 and 1989, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy)**, 1980-89  
fabric, card, ink, paper, metal  
25.0 × 30.0 × 4.5 cm  
Loaned by Julie Satur  
Academic records for dental therapy 'cadets' training at the Dental Therapy School, 448 St Kilda Road, Melbourne between 1980 and 1989.

298 Dental Therapy School, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria (est. 1976, closed 1995)  
**Statement of academic record, Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy)**, 1993  
paper  
29.6 × 21.0 cm  
signed *Dr Hanny Calache*  
Loaned by Julie Satur  
First-year academic results for the Diploma of Applied Science (Dental Therapy), 1993.

299 **Bottle of wine from Bachelor of Oral Health graduates**, 2013  
glass, metal, paper, wine  
28.0 × 7.0 cm  
Loaned by Julie Satur  
Presented to staff from graduates of Bachelor of Oral Health, Melbourne Dental School, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne.

300 **'Class of 2016' Bachelor of Oral Health graduates' mug**, 2016  
ceramic, ink  
9.5 × 11.0 cm  
Loaned by Julie Satur  
Presented to staff by graduates of Bachelor of Oral Health, Melbourne Dental School, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne.

301 Victorian Dental Therapist Association (VDTA)  
**'Great Smile! Who's Your Dental Therapist?' keyring**, c. 1999  
metal, enamel  
4.5 × 3.0 cm  
Loaned by Susan Kearney

Cat. 39 JP Bradburn, Secretary, Dental Health Services, Department of Health, Victoria, **Offer of placement to Miss JG Smedley, Dental Therapy School**, 21 Jan. 1976, paper, signed *JP Bradburn*. HFA4463, gift of Julie Satur (née Smedley), 2023, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DENTAL DIVISION

TELEPHONE: 67 8411

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH-DENTAL DIVISION  
224 QUEEN STREET  
MELBOURNE, VIC. 3000 Tel. 67 7873

REFERENCE.....

21st January, 1976

Miss J. G. Smedley,  
Tooradin Road,  
TYABB, 3913

Dear Miss Smedley,

I am pleased to inform you that you are hereby offered a place at the Dental Therapy School, 448 St.Kilda Road, Melbourne, 3004.

Would you please advise me by the 3.2.76 on the enclosed form if you are accepting the offer or declining the offer. It is most important that you advise me by the 3.2.76.

The offer is made subject to the following conditions:

1. That you have satisfied the University entrance requirements of the Victorian Universities and Schools Examinations Board and that you produce a certificate from the Victorian Universities and Schools Examinations Board showing that you meet this requirement.
2. That you are below the age of 26 years on 31.3.76 and that you produce documentary evidence of age.
3. That you pass the Public Service Medical Examination.
4. That you and a surety approved by the Minister of Health enter into an agreement with the Minister as follows:-
  - (a) that you will not discontinue the course without the consent of the Public Service Board
  - (b) on completion of the course you will apply for appointment as a Dental Therapist in the Victorian Public Service and that after appointment you will satisfactorily carry out the duties of Dental Therapist for a period of 2 years.

In the event of you not complying with conditions (a) and (b) above that you or the surety will pay to the Minister of Health the amount of the allowances paid to you plus interest at 6 per cent or such lesser amount as the Minister determines.


5. The allowances payable while a student at the Therapy School are as follows:

	<u>Living at Home</u>	<u>Living Away from Home</u>
17 years and under	\$2445	\$2706
at 18 years	\$2709	\$2970
at 19 "	\$2971	\$3232
at 20 "	\$3274	\$3535
Adult	\$3573	\$3834

If you accept the offer to attend the Dental Therapy School you must forward to me as soon as possible the following:

1. Documentary evidence of qualifications
2. Documentary evidence of age.

It is expected that the Dental Therapy School will start on 23.2.76.

  
J. P. BRADBURN,  
Secretary  
Dental Health Services.

## CONTRIBUTORS

**Julie Barker Cert DT** graduated from the Yeronga (Qld) dental therapy school 1983. She has been a senior dental therapist with Queensland Health and Oral Health Services Tasmania. Her appointments include president of DOHTAQ, ADOHTA (and life member) and ASSCID. She has held positions on the National Advisory Council on Dental Health and the Oral Health Advisory Panel.

**Nicole Bartholomeusz MBA, DipAppSc (DT)** is CEO of cohealth. She graduated in 1991 and was a Victorian delegate to the Australian Dental Therapists Association in 1992. She has served as a senior dental therapist, as area (Gippsland) and state manager for the School Dental Service and as executive officer in policy for the Department of Health Services.

**Debra Brighton DipAppSc(DT)** graduated from the Dental Therapy School in December 1978, one of the second graduating group. She was appointed to Grey Street Primary School, Gippsland, in 1979, and has continued to work in public dentistry in Gippsland. She is currently dental clinical lead with Latrobe Community Health.

**Aimee Brond DipAppSc(DT), GradCert DTher (ACP)** graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1996. She worked for the School Dental Service in rural and regional northern Victoria between 1996 and 2006, before joining a public dental agency at Goulburn Valley Health until 2023. She currently works in the private sector in regional Victoria.

**Lynne Brown DipAppSc(DT), GDip** was a member of the 1976–77 cohort of trainees at the Dental Therapy School, self-described as UVPDTCs (Unique Victorian Pioneer Dental Therapy Cadets). The title was based on the messaging students received from the school staff. She has been a clinician, HR manager for DHS and dental practice owner, and was the president of the VDTA in 1988–90.

**Edward Butler-Bromage BOH, GCert DT (ACP)** graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Oral Health in 2008. He has worked in private and public practice, and in education for more than 14 years. In 2019, he established Victorian Dental Group, a general and specialist practice in Melbourne's south-east.

**Professor Hanny Calache BDSc, MDSc, DPubHlth, GDipHlthAdmin** is Professor of Dentistry at La Trobe

University. In 2005, he was awarded the University of Melbourne IJ Marks and TC Adamson prize for developing the Bachelor of Oral Health curriculum and, in 2011, the Victorian Health Ministers Award for extending the scope of dental therapists to provide care to adults.

**William 'CJ' Carlson-Jones** is an Oral Health Therapist, a lecturer with the University of Sydney and has a Bachelor of Oral Health, Graduate Certificate in Oral Health Science, and Master of Business Administration. CJ has strong aspirations to facilitate accessible, high quality dental care for all Australians.

**Eliza Collins BOH Hons** graduated from the University of Melbourne in 2017, before working as an oral health therapist in Aboriginal communities for the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health. She has completed an honours program on perceptions of oral health within a Victorian Aboriginal community and is undertaking PhD on delivering culturally safe dental care to Indigenous Australians.

**Jacqui Corbett DipAppSc(DT)** graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1996. She has worked for the School Dental Service, DHSV, Henry Schein Dental and private and community health clinics. She has also tutored in dental anatomy and radiography and is currently Clinical Lead, Monash Health Smile Squad, Wonthaggi.

**Helen Dickson MHSc, GDHlthProm, DipAppSc(DT)** graduated from the Melbourne Dental Therapy School in 1983. She is Manager of Private and Supported Housing in Victoria's Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH). Her former key roles include Covid lead/director for Covid Response, DFFH, and manager of Supported residential Services Regulation for the Victorian Department of Health.

**Rayleen Formosa DipAppSc(DT), BA Psych, Cert 4 Train & Devt** began her career with the School Dental Service and has held senior management roles in public and private industry. She returned to the school-based mobile service and Melbourne Juvenile Justice Dental Clinic in 2009. She currently provides dental care in the specialist paediatric clinic at the Royal Dental Hospital, Melbourne.

**Catherine Furey DipAppSc(DT)** graduated from Melbourne Dental Therapy School in 1981 and completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Health Administration in 1996. She has worked for

the School Dental Service and in a private paediatric dental practice and is currently a clinician and demonstrator to final-year dental students.

**Professor Jane Gunn MBBS, PhD, FAHMS, FRACGP, DRANZCOG** is Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, and Foundation Chair of primary care research at the University of Melbourne. A general practitioner, she leads a research program in mental health, focusing on depression and multimorbidity.

**Professor Mark Gussy PhD, MEd, CertDH, Cert DT** holds clinical qualifications in dental hygiene and dental therapy as well as a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Management (University of Bath). He is a former director of the BOH at the University of Melbourne and head of School of Dentistry and Oral Health at La Trobe University. He is now Global Professor of Rural Health and Social Care at the University of Lincoln, UK.

**Dr Jacqueline Healy BA(Hons), MBA, PhD** is Director of Museums, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, at the University of Melbourne. Previously, she was inaugural director of Bundoora Homestead (the public art gallery of the City of Darebin), director of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory and director of public programs at the National Gallery of Victoria.

**Kellie-Ann Jolly DipAppSc(DT), GDHlthEdProm, MHlthSc(HlthProm)** graduated from the Dental Therapy School in 1981. She has held clinical and oral-health promotion positions, and leadership roles in health policy and program development with state government and not-for-profits, including the Heart Foundation. She has served on advisory committees and boards, including Dental Health Services Victoria.

**Gemma Kennedy Cert DT, AdDip Mgt** graduated from Sylvania School of Dental Therapy (NSW) in 1982. She has worked as a clinician and dental program manager, at Western Region Community Health, and currently works in Cessnock and teaches at the University of Newcastle. She was president of VDOHTA during 2006–12 and was awarded life membership in recognition of her leadership.

**Caroline Koedyk MClined, DipAppSc(DT)** has worked as a senior clinician, focusing on public dental health in regional Victoria, for more than 30 years. Her roles include senior clinical teacher in the Bachelor of Oral Health program and overseeing continuing professional development programs. Currently, she co-ordinates of the Melbourne Dental School's rural dental program.

**Rhonda Kremmer DipAppSc(DT), DipOHT(DH)** was among the first students at the Dental Therapy School during 1976–77, the self-described Unique Victorian Pioneer Dental Therapy Cadets. She has served as chair of the Dental Hygienists Association of Australia (WA branch) and as its national councillor. She currently works in private general dental practice.

**Joh Lazaro DipAppSc(DT), PGDPH(Comm Hlth), GCCT, PGCert DT (ACP) GDCE, MClined** graduated from the Dental Therapy School in 1992 and has worked extensively in public and private practice as a dental therapist since 1993. She has also been a clinical educator at the Melbourne Dental School for 17 years.

**Dr Pamela Leong BA, Dip OHT (Therapy and Hygiene) MRurHlth, PhD** has worked in public, general and specialist dental practices, in dental education and, most recently, as a researcher at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. She is widely published and was president of the Victorian Dental Therapist Association in 2001.

**Alison Lewis DipAppSc(DT), GCert DT (ACP)** is a dental therapist and clinical supervisor, who graduated from the Dental Therapy School in 1987. She has worked in public and private practice, in restorative, paediatrics and orthodontics. She currently works in private practice and as a clinical educator with dental students during placements at Latrobe Community Health in West Gippsland.

**Susan McKinlay Cert. School Dental Nurse (Therapy), DipBus** graduated from the School of Dental Therapy, New Zealand, in 1976 and gained a Diploma of Business from the University of New England in 2005. Initially she worked clinically and helped build the profile of the School Dental Service, later moving into program management. She has recently retired after a 50-year career.

**Libby Mears DipAppSc(DT), GDHlthEdProm GDProgEval MHSc** graduated from the Melbourne Dental Therapy School in 1983. She is a consultant in areas of leadership, strategy and governance. She is currently chair of GOR Coast and Parks Authority and Western Leisure Services, and a board member of Barwon Health. Her past roles include CEO, Leisure Networks and mayor and councillor Surf Coast Shire.

**Professor Mike Morgan BDS, MDSc, GradDipEpidemiol, PhD, FRACDS, FICD, GAICD** is a former head of the Melbourne Dental School. He retired as dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Otago in 2022 and is currently honorary curator of the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum at the University of Melbourne.

**Tan Minh Nguyen BOH, GCert DT (ACP), MPH, MSc (ClinEd)** has 15 years' experience in oral health therapy. His expertise includes public health, clinical education, health economics, health practitioner regulation, policy and advocacy. He leads research at Deakin Health Economics, Dental Health Services Victoria, and is a PhD candidate at Monash University.

**Julie Owen DipAppSc(DT), BA, GCUT** graduated from the Melbourne Dental Therapy School in 1981, after which she worked as a dental therapist across Melbourne's northern metropolitan regions. She transitioned into teaching at the Dental Therapy School and then at the University of Melbourne.

**Andrea Riccioni DipAppSc(DT)** graduated from Melbourne's School of Dental Therapy in 1981 before working statewide for the Victorian School Dental Service and public dental clinics. She was a clinical educator at the Melbourne Dental School from 2007 to 2022 and is currently Lead Dental Therapist (metro region) in the Victorian Government's Smile Squad program.

**Sharon Richardson DipAppSci(DT), PGCert DT (ACP), GCertTeach** graduated in 1983. She commenced with the School Dental Service in 1984 before moving to private and community practice. Skilled in managing dental-phobic and special needs clients, she transferred, in 2014, to the specialist clinic at the Royal Dental Hospital, Melbourne and works as a clinical educator at the Melbourne Dental School.

**Adam Rogers BOH, BPsych(Hons), MPhilDent** graduated from the Melbourne Dental School in 2007 and worked in both the public and private sectors. He now teaches at the University of Oslo, Norway, where his own postgraduate research focuses on mechanisms driving oral hygiene self-care. Believing that dental disease is largely preventable, he is committed to combining behavioural science and dentistry to strengthen effective oral health promotion.

**Brenda Ryan DipDT, GCertTT, PGDipHlthSc(ProfEd)** is an academic and PhD candidate in the Melbourne Dental School. Her primary roles and passions involve safe, supportive student education and research. Her research interests are virtual reality dental education and simulation, clinical assessment development and understanding the adult scope oral health practitioner.

**Professor Julie Satur DipAppSc(DT), M.Hlth.Sci(HProm), PhD** is a founding member and past president of VDTA, an ADOHTA life member and Professor of Oral Health at the Melbourne Dental School. Graduating as a dental therapist in 1977, she has built an international reputation in leadership, teaching and research, and has made many contributions to

public oral health policy and regulation. Her research involves oral health promotion, workforce and inequalities—most recently in community-based mental health and Indigenous communities.

**Sue Sestan DipAppSc(DT), PGDipHlthAdmin, MAScISM, FACHSM, MAICD** graduated as a dental therapist in 1983 and is a healthcare executive with more than 30 years' experience in senior management, and committed to public and not-for-profit healthcare. She is working on team-focused solutions to current and emerging needs in a primary healthcare organisation.

**Professor Alastair J Sloan BSc, PhD, PGCert, FHEA, CBiol, FRSB, FICD, FFDRCSI** was appointed Head of the Melbourne Dental School in 2020. Previously, he was professor of tissue engineering and bone biology, and head of the School of Dentistry at Cardiff University, UK. He is the author of more than 70 peer-reviewed research publications and seven book chapters, and holds three international visiting professorships.

**Paulette Smith Cert DH, GradDip (Adult Ed. & Training), Cert. IV (Bus. & Entrepreneurship)** graduated from Gilles Plains College of TAFE in 1988 and is a dental hygienist with more than 40 years' experience. As Director of Tri-Dente, she empowers colleagues through mentorship and training. She fosters new models of dental service delivery, designed for dental hygienists and oral health therapists in independent practice.

**Susanne Sofronoff DipAppSc(DT), Grad.Dip.HlthProm** is Manager of Health Promotion at Dental Health Services Victoria and an honorary senior clinical lecturer at the University of Melbourne. She has 25 years' experience in public oral health, with a clinical background in dental therapy. She is the former convenor of the National Oral Health Promotion Steering Group.

**Ronald Tan BOH, PGCert DT (ACP)** graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Oral Health in 2009, gaining a postgraduate certificate in 2013. He has practised as an oral health therapist in both public and private sectors for 14 years and as a clinical tutor at the Melbourne Dental School.

**Catherine Thompson BA, DipEd(Prim), DipAppSc(DT), MHSc(HlthProm)** graduated from the Dental Therapy School in 1981 and joined the School Dental Service. In 1988, she began teaching child development and community health at the Dental Therapy School. She has held several roles in state government in public health, including as manager in ageing and aged care and service development at the Victorian Department of Health.



The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne, has three museums: the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum, the Medical History Museum, and the Harry Brookes Allen Museum of Anatomy and Pathology.  
[museums.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au](https://museums.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au)

The history of the dental museum dates back to 1884, with the formation of the Odontological Society of Victoria. Since then, the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum has continued to expand and develop, and is now considered the oldest and most comprehensive dental collection in Australia.  
[henryformanatkinsondentalmuseum.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au](https://henryformanatkinsondentalmuseum.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au)

The Medical History Museum has the oldest and finest collection of its type associated with a medical school in Australia. Established in 1967 by Kenneth Russell, a professor of anatomy, with support from London's Wellcome Trust, the museum covers the history of Melbourne Medical School and the broader history of medicine in Australia and overseas.  
[medicalhistorymuseum.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au](https://medicalhistorymuseum.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au)

The Museum of Anatomy and Pathology was established by Sir Harry Brookes Allen in 1882 when he was appointed professor of descriptive and surgical anatomy and pathology. The museum is now one of the largest medical collections of human remains in Australia.  
[harrybrookesallenmuseum.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au](https://harrybrookesallenmuseum.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au)



**Tan Minh Nguyen BOH, GCert DT (ACP), MPH, MSc (ClinEd)** has 15 years' experience in oral health therapy. His expertise includes public health, clinical education, health economics, health practitioner regulation, policy and advocacy. He leads research at Deakin Health Economics, Dental Health Services Victoria, and is a PhD candidate at Monash University.

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