

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL DENTAL SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 1978

This year's dental service report is a brief one for many reasons. However the briefness of the report bears no relation to the number of teeth repaired and mouths restored. The accompanying sheets of statistics provide the exact figure on the number of patients seen and the work done. With these figures is a cost-comparison to show exactly what it would have cost the Commonwealth or State Governments if they relied on private dentists to perform this work on a fee-for-service basis. As you will note, this shows that our Aboriginal Dental Service has saved the Department of Aboriginal Affairs over \$100,000.00 this past year.

This of course is not the whole story we now have a senior Dental Nurse Dawn Kneebone, and a male Dental Assistant trainee, with two other Dental Nurse trainees about to be appointed - all from the Aboriginal community. Our other male Dental Assistant trainee has recently been apprenticed as a Dental Technician. Thus the Dental Service is providing both training and employment for Aboriginal people.

Once again this year the Dental Service kept unemployment figures of patients 17 years old and over - currently (January, 1979) these figures show 56.1% of the Aboriginal people using the service are unemployed.

The need for a second Dental Mobile caravan to service Victorian rural areas, and perhaps in the future Tasmania, has become both more apparent and more urgent during this year. Our Mobile Dental team (Dr. Kathy Szelenyi and the rotating Dental Assistants and Field Officers Dawn Kneebone, Karlene Dwyer, Sharyn Wordie, Kelvin Onus, Joel Wright, Brian Smith, Des Smith and John McGuinness) have done a wonderful job, and their popularity throughout Victorian country areas and N.S.W. border areas is proof of this. The increased number of patients coming to the Mobile, on their return visit to communities indicates the value and acceptance of dental treatment by the people - many of whom have visited a Dentist only on rare occasions previously. This argues well for the preventive dentistry programme which the Dental Team will introduce during 1979. However before the Dental Health of the Victorian Aboriginal community can show real improvement, it is vitally necessary that a second mobile team operates. All patients require the minimum of two dental checks per year, and at the moment the Mobile is taking 13 months to cover all communities in our region. This is not good enough!

At Fitzroy, we have operated in close liason with the Health Service, and there are many advantages from this relationship - as one visitor recently remarked "This is not just a Health Service". Several dentists who have worked as locums at Fitzroy during this past year have remarked on the sense of community and the committed attitude of the staff. This is very reassuring, and despite our current problems of finance, such attitudes will ensure such reports as this for many years to come.

21st February, 1979.

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL DENTAL SERVICE STATISTICAL REPORT 1978

Total number of patients treated 6207  
 Patients treated at Fitzroy 3329 Patients treated on Mobile 2878

These treatments covered over 10500 visits.

Details of treatments performed, with accompanying fee schedule of the Department of Veterans' Affairs 'Fee-for-service' applied to such treatments.

We see this as offering a comparison of value for expenditure provided between 'Fee-for-service' schemes and community-controlled Dental Services such as the Victorian Aboriginal Dental Service.

Item:		Cost:
011	Examinations	5046 \$ 31,285.00
011	Prophylaxis, removal of plaque,	4499 50,589.00
012	scale and clean	
165	Application of desensitizing agent	498 2,290.00
121	Topical Fluoride	602 2,769.00
311	Single Extractions	855 9,234.00
316	Multiple Extractions	266 6,703.00
321	Surgical Extractions	34 1,258.00
023	Radiographs	423 4,314.00
071	Diagnostic Models	34 .414.00
213	Acute Periodontal Infection	227 3,861.00
214		
215		
216	Chronic Periodontal Infection	99 1,826.00
421	Endodontic Treatment with debridement	
423	and canal obliteration	31 2,011.00
	Amalgam Restorations	
511	One surface	2826 34,477.00
512	Two surface	901 13,334.00
513	Three or more surfaces	155 3,069.00
	Synthetic Resin Resoration	
532	One surface	1433 21,495.00
533	Two surface	123 2,263.00
651	Recement crown and bridge	20 260.00
652		
711/712	Full Upper/Full Lower Dentures	162 25,272.00
721	Part Upper/Part Lower Dentures	209 20,900.00
760	Denture Repairs	45 .855.00
743	Denture Relines	17 1,071.00
611	Crowns and Bridges	37 5,994.00
		<u>\$245,544.00</u>

Plus 56 Mouth Guards not covered by Department of Veterans' Affairs scale of fees.

\*Actual Grant from Department of Aboriginal Affairs for 1978-79 \$140,000