

# KDT Update October 2020

Due to the threat of the effects of Covid-19 to the health of our remote communities we needed to cancel both the May and the August trip for 2020.

As with the past two years two trips were scheduled this year to provide five clinical weeks. This schedule has now been put off to 2021 with most volunteers expressing a desire to be involved. This will allow our team to use the flight credits accrued cancelling flights. Approximately 40 volunteers were to be involved in our 2020 teams including John and Jan who were scheduled every week.

John and I visited the region in August and were able to update supplies of toothpaste and brushes to communities such as Pandanus Park, Bayulu School, One Arm Point and Beagle Bay. Most communities were still on full visitor restrictions. We visited Yuri Yungi the Aboriginal Medical Service in Halls Creek to meet the staff and look at the upgraded dental facility. We also visited the hospital dental rooms to assess the equipment and undertake minor repairs.



We are both very disappointed that our 4 final year students and second year paediatric Registrar, will miss out on their KDT experience, not working with the best Teams in the profession and meeting so many of our great aboriginal patients and community friends.

Sessions of KDT Southern in 2020 were also cancelled amid Covid concerns and at this stage any session in 2021 will depend on developments. KDT continues to provide oral health packs on request to homeless shelters, health centers, refugee clinics, playgroups and schools across the state.



KDT continues to work in partnership with the Office of the Chief Dental Officer, Dental Health Services and the WA Country Health Service through the Kimberley Population Health Unit. Trish Pepper, KDT's Broome representative works on the Strong Teeth for Kimberley Kids toothbrushing program and provides thousands of toothbrushes to Kimberley school children each year. Thanks to Rotaract for their regular commitment to forming a team to happily repack thousands of toothbrushes into classroom ready packs which are very well received in schools and clinics. Many thanks also to Colgate for their very generous contribution of small toothbrushes and paste as well as My First Brushes and paste for a 0-3 program to be implemented by Trish.



We continue to have had generous support from the Australasian section of the International College of Dentists, the Academy of Dentistry International, the Rotary Clubs of Perth and Heirison and the Commonwealth Bank Employees Fund.

**A big thank you:** As always we thank our great and passionate volunteers, our past and current dental students and our corporate sponsors and generous private supporters including, Denticare, CBA and SDI without whom KDT could not continue providing this service to people in need in our community.

Jan and John Owen

**Kimberley Dental Team**

[www.kimberleydentalteam.com](http://www.kimberleydentalteam.com)



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