

Dear Kimberley Dental Team and supporters,

Hope you are well and looking forward to a rewarding year.

We are busy planning trips to the Kimberley in February, May and August 2010 and keen to advise everyone on all of the developments that have occurred since our last E-Flyer in August 2009.

Jan and I recently had a very productive meeting with Acting Director, Dental Health Services, Dr Martin Glick and on Friday the 22nd January, with Ms Roslyn Elmes, Executive Director, Public Health and Ambulatory Care for WA Health. Ros is responsible for DHS, reports to the Director General for Health who in turn, reports to the Minister. Ros as well as the Minister are both strong supporters of the Kimberley initiative and the concept of volunteer services being utilized to assist and complement, government dental services, to provide basic dental care in this vast region of our State. Currently through Ros, a dental needs assessment is being undertaken within her department. This will greatly assist the future planning of where and when workforce resources are required.

Programs similar to the what we are developing, are being trialled in the other states, especially in the NT and most recently, around Katherine, however we feel our model of using existing infrastructure, i.e. work with the government and not set up new clinics if possible, is the better model. I attach an article for your interest.

We have been granted access to Halls Creek Hospital for the months of May and August in 2010 as requested and look forward to working with Natalie De Zilwa, Area DHS Dental Therapist and the newly appointed, Area Dental Officer (based in Fitzroy Valley and visiting Halls Creek and Communities). The Kimberley Dental Team will be using Halls Creek Hospital as the base and visiting Balgo (5 hours drive south, 1 hour by helicopter), Ringers Soak (3 hours ESE, 45 minutes by helicopter) and Yiyili Community, during the months of May and August.

We truly believe, the wise use of such excellent government infrastructure in the Kimberley, is not only economically very sensible, but allows the Team to concentrate on providing additional dental care and education to the residents and outstation communities. Again we stress, this effort is to supplement the services provided by Dental Health Services and in no way reduce the current responsibilities or service the Government is providing. We have commended Martin on increasing the FTE dentist numbers from 3 to 5 in the region.

As before with the August 09 visit and in discussion with Dr John Grapsas and Ros Elmes, it's hoped that the anticipated six dentists and six dental nurses during these periods and over 2010, will be remunerated at casual government rates of pay. KDT Inc will cover all travel and accommodation costs as we did last year.

Please note, several members of the Team including myself, are either Adjunct Associate Professors or Honorary Clinical Consultants with UWA and so it is intended that final year Students will also be rostered to join these trips during 2010. In future years, students may be able to stay on longer to work with you and the Dental Officer if DHS wishes and if the students wish to stay in the Kimberley longer. This is currently being considered.

In addition to the above and also during May and August, the Kimberley Dental Team, which has now incorporated to facilitate submissions for support, grants, attracting and recognizing corporate support, will work in Warmun with Gija Total Health, commencing this February. It is planned to provide emergency care on site as we will do at Balgo and Ringers Soak, but

also facilitate immediate transfer to Halls Creek Hospital for the Team to provided urgent and complex (surgical) care.

Incorporation is also required to enable the entity to be an employer. It is our intention to employ a fulltime dental nurse/ nurse and dental health educator in Halls Creek and the East Kimberley in the near future. We have now employed a part time project coordinator here in Perth. Natalie is assisting with submissions for support and funding and coordinating our numerous contacts and timetable. We are preparing a submission for grants from Lotterywest, initially for local staff training and employment.

At this time, we are also actively working with Dr David Glance, Director, UWA Centre for Software Practice, developing the dental module for the exceptional MMEx web based program for direct entry of patients at our Warmun Screening 13-20th February. MMEx has been developed by the University of Western Australia's Centre for Software Practice in partnership with the Department of Health and Ageing, Department of Health WA, WA Country Health Services, Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council and clinicians. We see this as an invaluable tool to track very mobile populations such as those of the Kimberley. To have their full medical history available so the appropriate care can be provided. It is incredible to be able to bring up a child's or patients, full medical history make notes, chart, develop and record a long term treatment plan and priority list, tick off the prior approved treatment plan as treatment progresses, send photo's and x-rays directly to a dentist / consultant in Perth for advice and assistance. This is an important pilot study. I'm hopeful we will eventually get funding to make the East Kimberley the first Area in DHS to utilize this system. Our sincere appreciation to Prof Ian Constable, Dr Ann Ward and Ms Megan Buckley, Gija Total Health, Project Coordinator, for their support on this aspect of the project and our invitation to assist in Warmun.

During these trips above, we will have Dr Aggie Frydrych, Oral Medicine Specialist (August) and Dr Dennis Gregory) Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon (May visit). We are planning to have a "mini Dental Meeting" (remember, compulsory continuing dental education requirement as of 1st July 2010) for the Five DHS Kimberley dentists and invite Drs Lars Moir and Maria Chan from Kununurra and possibly Dr Peter Ellies from Broome and Dr Bruce Rudeforth, if he's back in the Kimberley at that time. Dr Brian Koch is keen to return to the Kimberley this year, but his ADWA commitments are onerous. An enthusiastic recent graduate and experienced volunteer with "Fill the Gap", Cairns and NDF, Dr Daniel Cocker, will be assisting in the two middle weeks of May. This will also be the main time we fly out to the Communities

I'm happy to advise of a very exciting new development. We are establishing a joint venture with the WA arm of National Dental Foundation to support the Sisters of Mercy and their four communities at and around the Gibb River Station / Community. This is just off the Gibb River Road, approximately half way between Kununurra and Derby (approximately a 6 hour drive either way). Although a 10-11 hour drive from Halls Creek, it again is only 1.2 hours by helicopter. Eastern States dental equipment has been donated and in May (third week) Dr Dennis Gregory and I will assist with mutual staffing and helicopter transfers to and between the Communities to maximize basic care so desperately needed and requested by Sr Kathy Solano.

With this E-Flyer 3, I attach a pdf about the recent graduation of indigenous student, Dr David Plichta as a dentist from UWA. In addition to the congratulations and general recognition of his achievement, David is quoted in the article as saying "I really want to do fly-in, fly out jobs, to remote communities". I believe this is a positive indication on how young graduates see themselves serving in these remote areas, and long term will show to be the most cost effective and practical way to provide motivated, productive and reliable

dental services. This approach to providing health care, in our case dental, is already promoted and utilized successfully by CRROH. The economic model is supportive. When you think of travelling 10 hours by car from Halls Creek to Balgo return, the same journey by aircraft or helicopter of 2 hours at a cost of \$1500, the time saving will allow for an additional full day of dental care, conservatively "valued" at \$3-4,000 per day. This is based on a single operator and obviously flying a team of two dentists, possibly in liaison with a GP or other speciality, great synergies can occur.

Two great developments have occurred this past week. Firstly, our application to Colgate Oral Care for product support in the Kimberley has just been approved under their Global Child Dental Health Taskforce Program. Their committee endorsed our application as "a very worthwhile project". Thank you to the committee and Ms Angela Tascone, Colgate Professional Care, WA/NT Territory Manager and Dr Barbara Shearer, Scientific Affairs Manager, for their support.

Secondly, only yesterday, Dr Ann Ward and Dr Siew-Lee Thoo, District Medical Officer, (Anaesthetics), at the Kununurra District Hospital, have advised that an OPG unit has arrived at KDH and will be installed this week. It should be operational and ready for data entry into MMEx during our Warmun trip in two weeks time. This is excellent news and timing and will greatly assist long term dental treatment planning especially for children as well as being of a great assistance to our medical colleagues and benefit to the community at large.

Our website will be up and running by late February. We really are looking forward to acknowledging all of our volunteers and our corporate supporters.

Look out for www.kimberleydentalteam.com

Please feel free to email or call at the Midland practice 08 9274 6861 or home 08 9277 3395 if you require further details.

Regards for now and all the best for 2010

John & Jan Owen

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