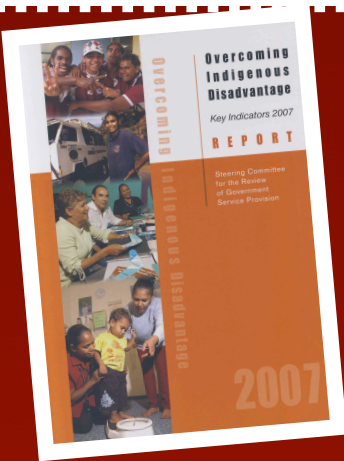


Latest News

18 MONTHS, 34 DENTISTS, 1,727 PATIENTS

Filling the Gap's latest statistics show FTG dentists are making a real difference. In just over eighteen months a good idea has turned into a great reality, with over 1,727 people receiving treatment.



Productivity Commission Report includes Filling the Gap

The national report 'Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage - Key indicators 2007' commissioned by the Federal Government includes Filling the Gap as an example of a dental health initiative 'that works! We were excited to see FTG mentioned and look forward to providing further information when we compile the outcomes of our forthcoming Evaluation.

NEW STUDIES HIGHLIGHT CHRONIC STATE OF DENTAL HEALTH

Recently here has been a rush of national media about the state of dental care in Australia. The latest reports reinforce what we've known for a long while – that there are 'disproportionately elevated rates of tooth loss, untreated decay and tooth wear among Indigenous Australians'.

Nationally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are behind on every health indicator: life expectancy – currently a 17 year gap, maternal mortality, infant mortality – two to three times the non-Indigenous rate, child mortality, and childhood and adult morbidity.

In 2003-04, there were approximately 2,000 hospitalisations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for diseases of the oral cavity, salivary glands and jaw, including: dental caries (54%), diseases of the pulp and periapical tissues (16%) and embedded and impacted teeth (9%).

Waiting lists for dental treatments in the public sector are now 2.5 years in Cairns, and as high as seven years in nearby Atherton. Reportedly, 75 percent

of children under six in northern Cape York have decayed, missing or filled teeth, compared with the state average at 54 percent.

The good news is that Filling the Gap is making a small yet significance difference in this one area. Waiting lists have now been dramatically reduced and the dental unit has been able to be proactive in providing mobile van services to the more outlying communities in the region.

Many thanks to our 42 dentists who have so far volunteered!



There are 'disproportionately elevated rates of tooth loss, untreated decay and tooth wear among Indigenous Australians'.

Don't forget to visit our website: www.fillingthegap.com.au for more information

Please give us a call to find out more: Uri Windt 0418208755

Thinking of volunteering but not sure when?

We need you soon! FTG now has vacancies in October 2007, January holidays 2008 & throughout next year.

July 2007

GP needed for Mt Isa

Wuchopperen is now running a clinic at Mt Isa, Qld. They have recently employed an Aboriginal doctor who requires some short term supervision. Do you know a GP (must be appropriately registered to supervise) who could work as a locum for 1 - 3 months?

