

# Kimberley Dental Team April 2016 Update

Within the next few weeks our wonderful KDT volunteers will be returning to the Kimberley to provide dental care across the region. As with last year, KDT HQ in Broome will be our start and end point for each of the West Kimberley trips, with teams flying in and out of Kununurra while we are in Halls Creek.

As a result of the amazing efforts of our teams in 2015, we were able to screen, provide dental health education and treatment for hundreds of Kimberley children. This allows us to shift our focus to older members of families this year. We have three trips scheduled, with visits to Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing and Broome, along with 16 Aboriginal communities. In all we will be providing seven weeks clinical work; three weeks in May, two in June and two in August, and approximately 55 volunteers are involved including John and Jan who are scheduled every week.

KDT Southern has also been active between trips providing a dental service to UnitingCare homeless shelter, Tuart Place - the Forgotten Australians, Mercy Care Aged Facility and Foyer Oxford Youth Services. A pilot program has also been undertaken for the Mental Health Advocacy Council. This will involve four sessions to Devenish House and Franciscan Lodge this year. In addition we continue to provide oral health packs on request to homeless shelters, health centres, playgroups and schools across the state.

To date this year UnitingCare West had two Friday morning clinics and two evening Family clinics, Tuart Place had one Monday morning clinic, Mercy Care had one Wednesday morning clinic, Foyer Oxford had one Saturday clinic, Franciscan Lodge two Monday morning clinics and Devenish House one Friday morning clinic: a total of 10 sessions in all. A further 12 sessions are scheduled for the rest of the year. Our thanks to Emily for managing our KDT Southern clinics.

KDT Southern is always looking for dentists and assistants to help out so if you have a free morning or evening and would like to be involved, at least occasionally, please contact us. Apart from the amazing outcomes achieved for these vulnerable people, it's always a lot of fun and usually involves lunch. If you would like to be involved please email [Emily](mailto:Emily) to express your interest and availability and find out about the roster and scheduled visits for 2016 and 2017.

The KDT Southern Isuzu (ex Queensland Government Dental Truck) has been refurbished by KDT supporter Graham Whiteside, who is driving it to Broome in time for our May trip. This truck will provide an additional vehicle to transport teams plus storage for luggage and dental equipment. KDT has recently purchased a VW Caddy Crew Van to transport equipment for KDT Southern.

KDT remains incredibly fortunate to have local Aboriginal woman Robyn Long as a volunteer KDT Oral Health Officer. Robyn is a most respected community leader who lives in Halls Creek. She has been a great supporter of KDT since 2009 and brings a special and invaluable set of skills to the team.

KDT continues to work in partnership with 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 the Rotaract team for happily repacking toothbrushes into classroom ready packs which are very well received in schools. Trish made a visit to Halls Creek for the Clontarf football carnival on the 6th April to provide toothbrush packs and talk to the young men about oral health. As you can see by the photos the oral health message was very well received.

**A big thank you** to our fabulous volunteers, corporate sponsors and supporters without whom KDT could not continue providing this service to people in need in our community.

Jan and John Owen  
**Kimberley Dental Team**

*Follow our 2016 travels and adventures on the [Craig the Croc Facebook page](#).*

