

## HOPE4HEALTH DENTAL STORY

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In 2010, a group of dental students attended a regular Hope4health Teddy Bear Hospital primary school health education visit held in Cherbourg. While providing basic dental hygiene instructions to students at the primary school, it became apparent that the oral health of the community was in a bad state, with no regular dentist, despite a dental chair being available at the local medical centre. Further research found that the closest QLD health dental clinic was an hour away, with a **waiting list of over two years**.

A group of Griffith Dental Students saw this need in the community and the dental chair as an opportunity to relieve the pain and discomfort of the local people caused by the high level of decay and poor or absent oral hygiene. The students ran a pilot volunteer dental clinic program later in this same year, taking ten dental students, portable equipment and consumables provided by Griffith University and other supplies, and a supervisor out to provide emergency dental care to those in pain due to oral disease.

The project was a lot of hard work but an excellent success and inspired many other dental students to get involved. The project was solidified in 2011 with David Baker and Kylie Arnot establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with the highly supportive Cherbourg Regional Aboriginal & Islander Community Controlled Health Service in which the emergency clinic runs.

The aim of the clinic is simple, and strives to allow the community to transition from emergency intervention to preventative dental health. As we aim not only to provide emergency treatment when visiting the Cherbourg community but also to raise dental awareness, all patients attending the clinic receive oral hygiene instruction, a toothbrush and toothpaste for prevention of further decay and maintenance of good oral hygiene.

Up to four dental clinics are run annually. With 100+ appointments available during each clinic, Hope4Health is able to provide intervention and promotion to 400 members of the Cherbourg community. In the first visit of 2013 and under Ryan Goh's leadership, 380 procedures on 123 patients were completed. Of the 380 procedures, 71 were extractions, and 91 were restorations (fillings).

In 2014, the baton was handed to Michael Baker, Neil Evans and Vidya Krishna. These students have worked to create a sustainable service to the community with patients being treated each year on one-week long visits attended by dental students and their supervisor. The project not only offers the opportunity for local residents of Cherbourg to receive dental care, but also provides dental students with a clinical and social experience like no other. The team was fortunate to secure the ADAF Wrigley grant once again. This combined with the generosity of Griffith University's School of Dentistry and Oral Health allowed the program to continue running. Consumables and specialised equipment was purchased to allow students to continue helping the wonderful people of Cherbourg.

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In 2015, once again program was run under the leadership of Michael Baker and Vidya Krishna, along with Zohal Azami and Julian Raitelli. A total of 240 patients were treated during the 2015 trips, delivering over 980 procedures worth \$76,567.55.

In 2016, the program was passed on to Zohal Azami, Julian Raitelli along with Luke Chung and Katherine Wang. A total of 226 patients were treated during the two trips in 2016, delivering procedures worth \$70,646.55.

In 2017, Luke Chung and Katherine Wang assumed the senior executive roles and recruited Mark Woods and Trinette Stevenson to the executive team. During the two 2017 trips a total of 215 patients were seen, delivering over 859 procedures for emergency intervention, restorative and preventative treatments, worth \$62,365.

In 2018, the Cherbourg Dental Clinic underwent renovations preventing a trip from going ahead by Mark Woods worked closely with the clinic to ensure the trips could continue.

Trinette Stevenson, Jess Lamb, Jaebin Lee, Naomi Nadon-Hoysted and Josh Grantelli continued the trips in 2019. In June 94 patients, 451 procedures and provided treatment worth \$34 650

