

Healthy families Healthy smiles

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Celebrating 10 Years of Capacity Building

Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV) are proud to be celebrating 10 years of the Healthy Families, Healthy Smiles program. Since 2012, the Healthy Families, Healthy Smiles Team have been working to embed oral health promotion in the everyday practice of key workforces that engage with pregnant women and young children. We would like to take opportunity to congratulate you for being an oral health champion and advocating for good dental health in your work.

[Read more about our 10-year journey on Page 2.](#)



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YOU'RE INVITED TO

Celebrate 10 years of

Healthy Families, Healthy Smiles

Join our Annual Forum on:

**Wednesday 6 April 2022
2.00-3.30 pm via MS Teams**

Hear about the impact of your work on the oral health of 0-3 year olds and pregnant women, and share with us your ideas for embedding oral health into professional practice.

To RSVP [click here](#)
or scan the QR code



Our Journey from 2012 to 2022

Over our 10 year history we have provided professional development opportunities to 6,357 professionals and students including workshops, webinars, online training courses and lectures. We've developed and distributed a range of resources (position statement, practice guides, flipcharts, tooth packs, videos, flyers, mouth models and tip cards) and we've advocated for policy and system changes that help to embed oral health into professional practice.

Most importantly, we continue to partner with organizations and oral health champions, like you. Our partners have supported our success with valuable contribution to the design, delivery, and evaluation of our program initiatives.

DHSV would like to acknowledge the Victorian Government's Department of Health for their long-term investment in the Healthy Families, Healthy Smiles program.

Who we've trained - 2012-2021

165	Aboriginal health service staff
38	Antenatal health professionals
12	Bicultural workers
184	Dietitians & nutrition professionals
705	Early childhood educators
183	Early parenting practitioners
21	General practitioners
33	Health promotion practitioners
9	Library staff
3161	MCH nurses & students
579	Midwives
411	Oral health professionals and students
303	Pharmacists
16	Practice nurses
537	Supported playgroup facilitators

Total = 6,357!



Glimpses of 10 years

Be proud of your mouth - World Oral Health Day 2022

World Oral Health Day is celebrated every year on 20th March. The theme this year 'Be proud of your mouth'.

Many of our Healthy Families, Healthy Smiles partners are already committed oral health champions, sharing oral health information to families and children as part of your daily practice. But World Oral Health Day is an opportunity for you to put oral health in the spotlight and up the ante when it comes to promoting healthy teeth and mouths.

Here are some things you could do to celebrate World Oral Health Day within your service:

- Share a post on your social media channels – don't forget to include a high-quality picture or video
- Display posters in your waiting room, entry way or classroom
- Handout useful tip cards or factsheets to parents
- If you're a health professional, use it as a conversation starter and conduct a toothbrushing demonstration or an oral health check
- If you're an educator or playgroup facilitator, run a fun activity – read a book, sing a song and do a craft activity.

DHSV Resources

Here are some great resources to support your World Oral Health Day efforts:

- [Resources to share with families](#)
- [Fun activities for children](#)
- [Vic Dental YouTube videos](#)
- [Social Media Kit](#)
- [Deadly Tooth Tips - Social Media Toolkit](#)

Free resources are also available at: www.worldoralhealthday.org





Farewell and goodbye – Robyn

In December 2021, the Healthy Families, Healthy Smiles Team sadly said farewell to the ever-enthusiastic Robyn Alexander. In her six years with DHSV Robyn made some fantastic contributions to the Healthy Families, Healthy Smiles program including the development and delivery of the Brush Bed Book and Healthy Little Smiles initiatives. Robyn also created strong partnerships across the early childhood sector and coordinated the development of some amazing tools and resources including the Deadly Tooth Tips. All the best Robyn - may you continue to inspire and motivate across your career!

A goodbye letter from Gillian...

After nearly 10 years, the Healthy Families, Healthy Smiles Team are sadly saying a fond farewell to our esteemed colleague Gillian Lang. Gillian has been an integral team member who has worked hard to embed oral health promotion into the practice of health professionals including midwives, maternal and child health (MCH) nurses, dietitians and Aboriginal health service staff. She leaves a large legacy of work that will continue to positively impact the lives of young children and pregnant women well into the future. Congratulations Gillian!



Gillian has shared a few parting words below:

“Joining the Healthy Families, Healthy Smiles team in June 2012, was exciting and challenging for me. How to reach health professionals across the State who provide care for pregnant women and children 0-3 years gave me the opportunity to partner and or collaborate with some of the most amazing people from organisations or institutions across the State.

As I am resigning my position, I would like to thank all of those who I have worked with over the 10 years. You have been so generous in partnering or collaborating with Healthy Families, Healthy Smiles to share your knowledge, resources, policy development and education opportunities for strengthening the capacity of midwives, MCH nurses, dietitians and nurses to incorporate oral health promotion within their various roles. Without your involvement Healthy Families, Healthy Smiles would not be where it is today.”

– Gillian Lang

Get in touch

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