



# Building Better Oral Health Communities

## Project information

### An exciting oral health project begins

We are pleased to announce a new project called *Building Better Oral Health Communities*.

SA Dental Service is the leader of this project in partnership with:

- Helping Hand Long Term Care, Salisbury, SA
- Helping Hand Country Community Care, Port Pirie, SA
- Aboriginal Elders & Community Care Services, Adelaide, SA
- BCS Care Centre-Hunter, NSW
- Hunter New England Oral Health Service, NSW
- The University of Adelaide, SA.

Funding is provided by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing under the Encouraging Better Practice in Aged Care (EBPAC) Initiative.

The project lasts for two and one half years from June 2012 to December 2014.



Government of South Australia  
SA Health



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### Project Background

To enjoy good health and well-being older people need to be able to eat and talk comfortably, smile, be happy with their appearance and be free of dental pain.

Research has shown early oral health screening, timely referral to dental care and support with daily oral hygiene can provide many benefits to the oral and overall health of older people.

In 2007, a multi-state consortium, led by the South Australian Dental Service, was funded by the Australian Government's Department of Health and Ageing's Encouraging Best Practice in Residential Aged Care (EBPRAC).

This produced the highly successful evidence-based Better Oral Health in Residential Care Model.

This Model promoted a multidisciplinary team approach with GPs, registered nurses, care workers and dental professionals sharing responsibility for key oral health processes: oral health assessment, oral health care planning, daily oral hygiene and dental treatment.

This was supported by a suite of resource portfolios and an education and training program. In 2010, they were implemented as part of Australia's first Nursing Home Oral and Dental Health Plan.

### Project Objectives

The Building Better Oral Health Communities Project aims to build on the success of the Better Oral Health in Residential Care Model by translating it into the community aged care setting.

### Project Methodology

A Communities of Practice (CoP) approach will be used. This will provide a collaborative framework for aged care staff from the residential and community sectors to work together to share information, insights and experience in order to identify better practices and standards in oral health care.

### Evaluation Strategies

The School of Nursing and the Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health (ARCPOH), both of the University of Adelaide, will undertake the project evaluation.

The School of Nursing will monitor the effectiveness of evidence translation from the residential aged care to the community setting in relation to systems improvements, care delivery and sustainability.

ARCPOH will measure the oral health outcomes for older people.

### Benefits from the Project

This project will showcase a model of oral health care for use in community aged care which is person centred and supports the principles of ageing well at home.

In doing so it will articulate models of oral health care that support the changing needs of older people as they transition from independence to informal assistance to formal assistance and to residential care.

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## For more information

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### Adrienne Lewis

Project Director  
SA Dental Service

Phone 08 8222 9102

Email [adrienne.lewis@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:adrienne.lewis@health.sa.gov.au)

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### Eliza Manuel

Project Manager  
SA Dental Service

Phone 08 8222 9106

Email [eliza.manuel@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:eliza.manuel@health.sa.gov.au)

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