





New Zealand
Dental Assoc.

Role of the NLO: An Example from the New Zealand Dental Association

Dr David Excell BDS FICD
President



Role of the NLO: So why is this important?





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Overview

As the professional association for dentists and dental specialists, NZDA has been advocating on behalf of dental professionals and members of the public, since it was first established in 1905.

We are united in helping the public make informed choices about their dental care. Delivering accessible dental disease prevention and in delivering information on promoting oral health through disease prevention and treatment to individuals and communities.

Member of the NZDA become part of our trusted and professional support network, opening up access to a wealth of resources designed to help in professional practice.

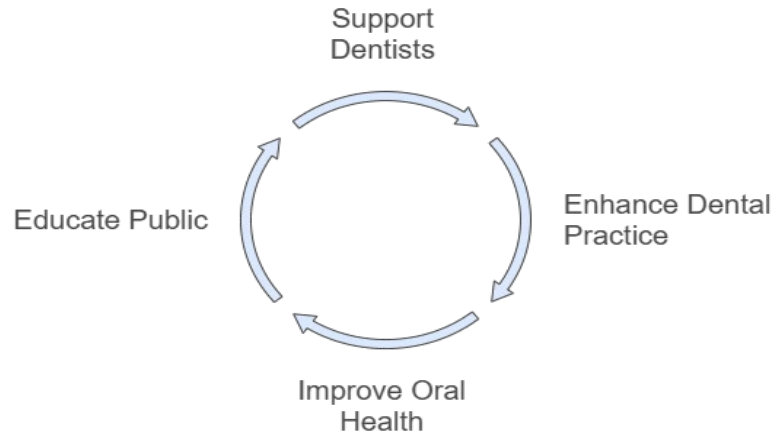
Supporting nearly 3,000 members, at NZDA we are committed to making our members' voices heard through considered and trusted representation to government, media and the public.





**New Zealand
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Vision Supporting dentists to improve the oral health of New Zealand

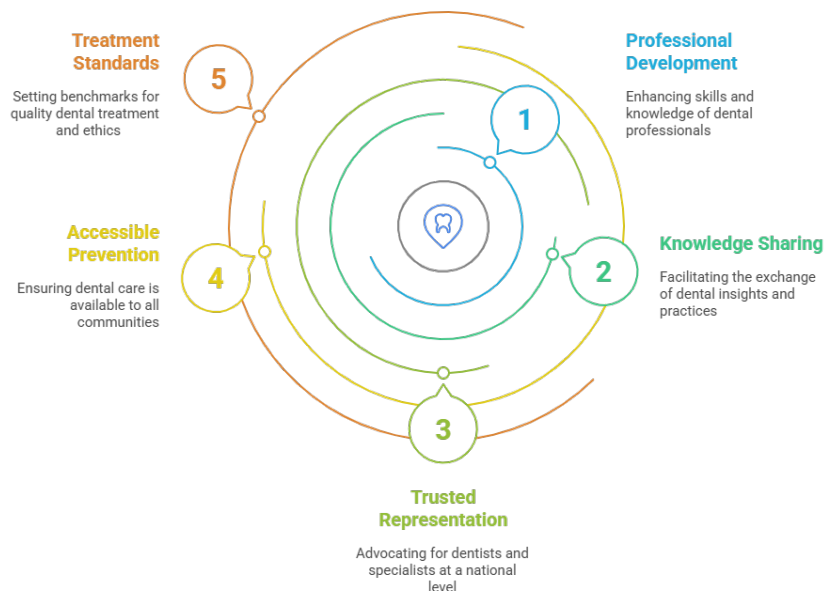


Made with  Napkin

NZDA Mission

The NZDA are the chosen advocates for dentists and dental specialists nationwide, offering professional development, knowledge sharing and trusted representation that sets the benchmark for accessible, prevention and treatment in our communities.

NZDA's Role in Advocacy





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Purposes

1. To enhance **communication** between Members of the Association and convene **meetings** of the Membership and the dental profession
2. To provide Members with **services** that enhance **collegiality** and better **patient** and **practice management** and **clinical care**
3. To enhance dental knowledge and maintain a periodical journal which shall be known as the **New Zealand Dental Journal**
4. To foster and promote opportunities for **continuing professional development**
5. To provide **grants** for the **promotion** of dental and allied **sciences**, and the **dental welfare** of the public
6. To support dental and oral health **research** in New Zealand and disseminate **evidence-based information** to the public relating to dentistry, and particularly relating to **prevention** and the **dental welfare** of the public
7. To maintain and enforce, when required, the Association's **Rules, charters** and other **policies** and **procedures**, a **Code of Ethics, Clinical Governance Documents**, and a system of **Peer Review**
8. To actively monitor and evaluate legislation impacting the practice of dentistry
9. To advocate on behalf of Members and the public for the improvement of **oral health in New Zealand**



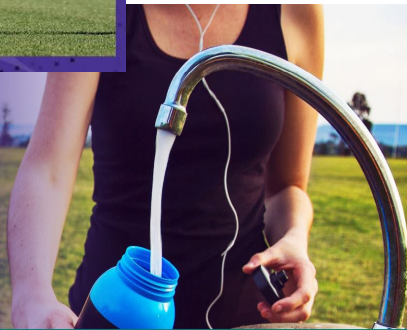
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What We Do



Switch to Water

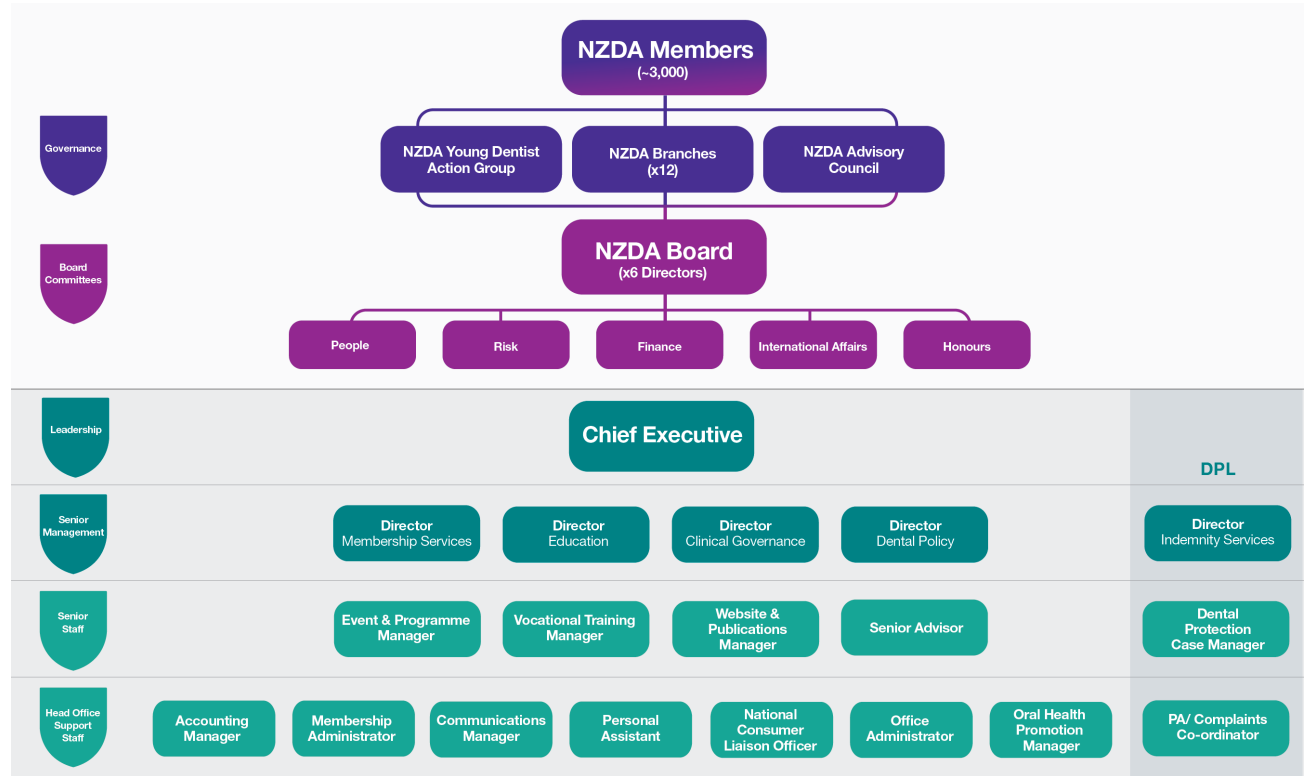
Say goodbye to sugary drinks and see the difference



Advocacy & Dental Policy	Local Branch & Affiliated Societies Support	Clinical Governance Resources	Marketing & Communications	Annual Conference & Expo
Education, Courses & Webinars	Indemnity Services	Wellbeing & Benevolent Services	Surveys & Sector Analytics	Employment Fair & Job Classifieds
Legal & HR Support	Exclusive Member Discounts	Practice Management Resources	OHP Projects, Resources & Campaigns	Vocational Training
Dental Research Grants	Patient Complaints Liaison & Peer Review	Print & Digital Publications	Patient Resources & Information	Students & Young Dentist Services
NZDA House Venue Hire	NZDA Oral History Project & Museum	NZDA Seal of Approval Scheme	Stakeholder Engagement & Leadership	Consulting & Development Services

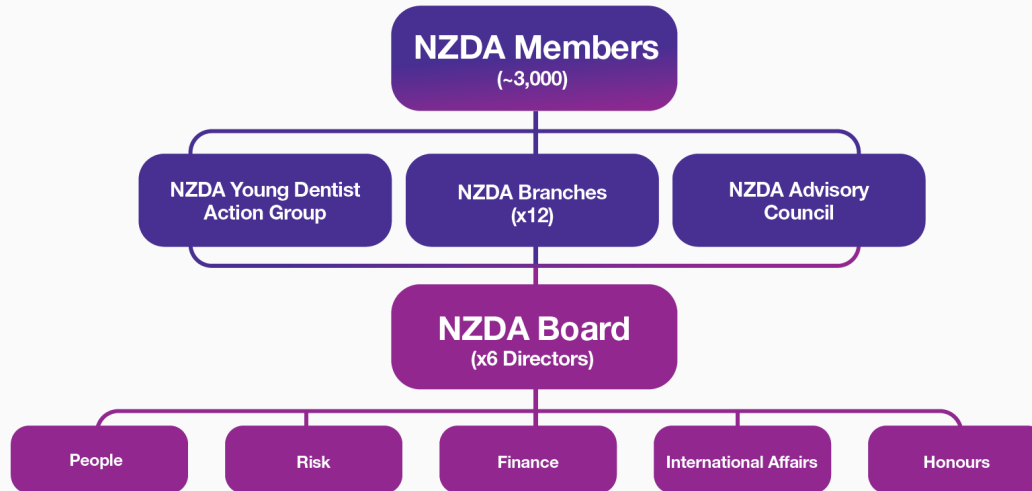


Structure





Governance

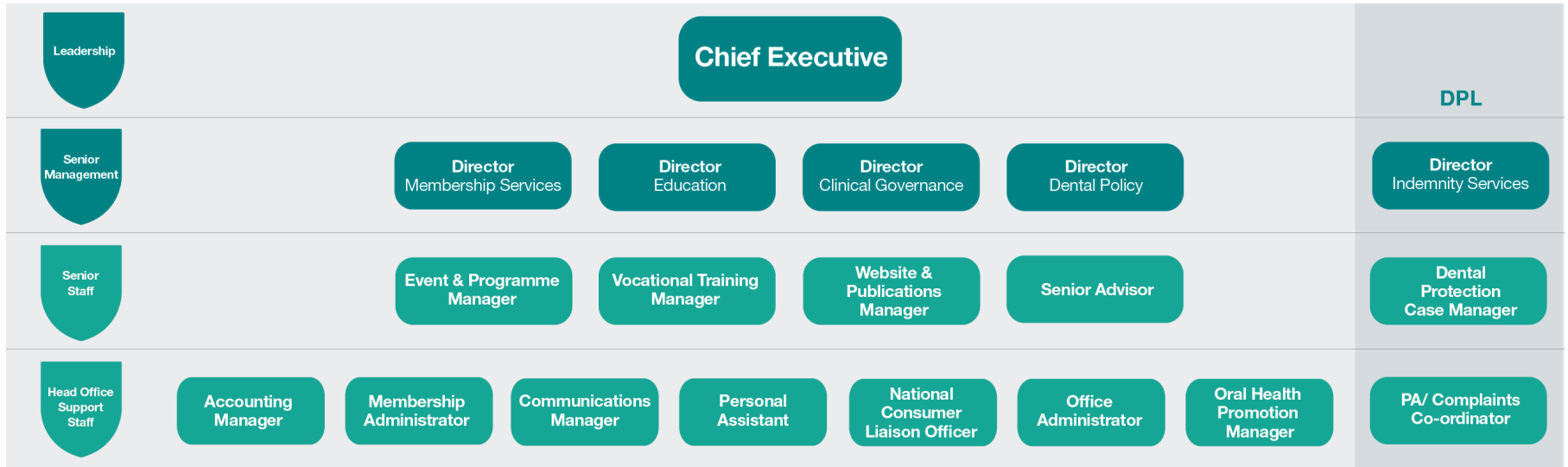


Governance

Board
Committees



Staff

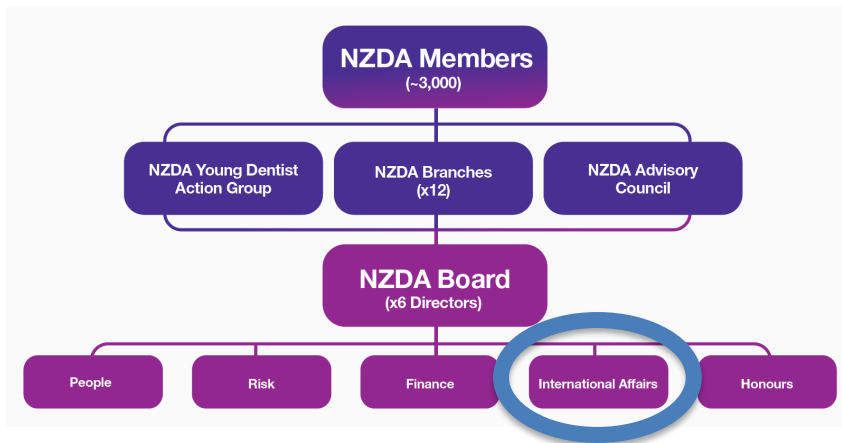


International Affairs Committee

NZDA President (Chair)

NZDA President-Elect (FDI NLO)

NZDA Chief Executive





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International Affairs Committee

The Association President & Committee Chair is responsible for:
Committee

- Run Committee Meetings
- Write Report to the Board

FDI Parliament & Activities

- Lead Delegation to FDI Parliament & Congress
- Act as the Voting Member for the Association
- Promote FDI Initiatives to NZDA Staff & Members

The President-Elect / FDI NLO is responsible for:
Committee

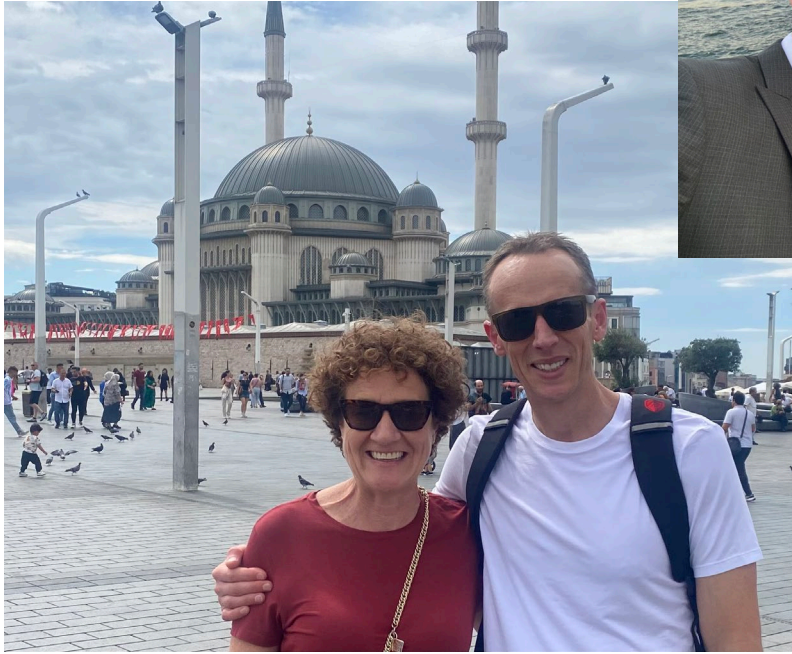
- Participate in Committee Meetings

FDI Parliament & Activities

- Produce the FDI NLO Report
- Participate in the FDI NLO Forum
- Liaise with NZDA Staff to Produce NDA Feedback on Draft Policies
- Write Article to the Membership in the Association Magazine
- Promote FDI Initiatives to NZDA Staff & Members



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Our new NLO

Dr Ellen Clark

**General Dentist and Community Dentistry
Specialist.
And President Elect of NZDA.**





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NZDA NLO





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NZDA NEWS



New Zealand



Dental Technology

From Skepticism to Success:
Impact of Digital Dentures on Dental Practice
The Revival Of The Refractory Technique:

Hybrid Concept Veneers
on the Aesthetic Region

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FDI World Dental Federation

FDI – Federation Dentaire Internationale

[ISTANBUL, TURKIYE] 9–15 SEPTEMBER 2024

It was my pleasure to represent the NZDA, along with our president Amanda Johnston, at this event as our National Liaison Officer (NLO).

The FDI Parliament ran for 7 days from the 9th – 15th of September and concurrently with this the congress ran for 4 days from the 12th – 15th of September. This year there were over 300 delegates representing 127 different countries at the parliament. This is the business side of the organisation which operates as an NGO and is overseen by the General Assembly which sets policies and deals with the governance.

The congress attracted over 8000 registrants attending up to 10 different streams of lectures and courses over 4 days and along side this was a huge industry exhibition with over 800 companies.



FDI is member organisation founded in 1900 in Paris with a mission of being “the leading voice of the dental profession”, developing health policies, education programs and advocating for dentistry to improve oral health worldwide. Their headquarters are now based in Geneva, and they employ around 20 people on a full or part time basis to run the organisation.

They work with members (of which NZDA is one) to raise awareness about the importance of good oral health and its vital role in securing overall health and well-being and are dedicated to safeguarding the health of people worldwide through the improved prevention, treatment, and control of oral diseases.

FDI parliament and congress report



by David Excell
President-elect and
National Liaison Officer,
NZDA

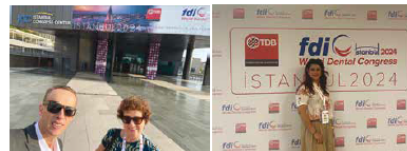
FDI parliament and congress report

This year there were 8 position statements that were to be adopted by the general assembly (GA).

These have all been worked on during the previous 12 months by appointed expert working groups and draft documents are sent to all National Dental Associations (NDAs) for feedback. NZDA provided significant input on many of these statements through our own network of experts in each area and it was pleasing to see that almost all of this feedback was taken on board and included into the final documents presented to GA.

The following position statements were adopted by the GA and are now available to view and use on the FDI website:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Reduction of Sugar Consumption
- Early Childhood Caries
- Oral Health and Special Care Dentistry
- Oral Health and Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)
- Ethics in Dentistry
- Dental Laboratory Technician
- Lasers in Dentistry



Other discussions at the general assembly included:

Membership fees to FDI – there was a robust discussion about this and FDI resolved to form a special committee to investigate how this was calculated to make it as fair and equitable as possible. The committee was to report back next year to the GA.

Hybrid meetings of FDI Parliament in the future – There were many countries who wanted this considered and the FDI Executive Director Enzo Bondioni gave a good presentation on this. Issues included the different time zones and the reliability of technology especially when casting votes, the increased cost of the technology, loss of interpersonal interaction with colleagues. The obvious advantages were: environmental sustainability with lower carbon emissions if delegates were not flying to attend in person and no associated cost of flights for those that could not afford to travel or chose not to travel, this could make it more equitable and increase participation.

World Oral Health Day – There was promotion for this will be on the 20th of March next year and will have a theme of “A happy mouth is a happy mind”. There are resources available and competitions about this on the FDI website and social media channels. Check out <https://www.worldoralhealthday.org/> for more info.

Sugar related issues – Sugar reduction is now a major focus for FDI and there were multiple sessions on this at the congress, including our own Rob Beaglehole presenting on the final day on this topics. This remains to be a big part of their strategy for the future. FDI has resolved to no longer accept sponsorship from sugar related industries and this has affected their income significantly but felt it was ethically the right thing to do. They will continue to promote WHO’s evidence-based recommendations, including taxing sugar sweetened beverages, front-of-



FDI parliament and congress report

FDI parliament and congress report

pack nutritional labelling, and regulating the marketing of unhealthy commodities to children and adolescents.

FDI Committees – presentations were given by the chairs of the 5 standing committees to update the GA on the work they were doing. These were: Dental Practice, Membership Liaison and Support, Education, Science and Public Health. It was interesting and quite inspiring to see the work that these groups produce and the projects they run, often behind the scenes.

International Dental Journal (IDJ) – The journal continues to go from strength to strength with its open access online format under the leadership of Prof. Lakshman Samaranyake. It has a new subsection focusing on Artificial Intelligence and Dentistry. It continues to play a crucial role as a leading source of knowledge for dental professionals worldwide, driving pivotal advancements in international oral health.

The October 2024 volume 74, issue 5, which contains some 35 articles, can be found at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/international-dental-journal>

Inaugural WHO meeting on Oral Health – This is to be held in Bangkok, Thailand 26th – 29th of November this year. WHO is wanting representative Chief Dental Officers and Universal Health Coverage Leads of all 194 members states to attend this. They are working to strategically align with the FDI and other groups, like the NCD Alliance and World Health Professionals Alliance, to develop a plan with specific actions with the goal of “improved oral health for all”. As well as the development of national roadmaps on oral health aligned with WHO’s Global Oral Health Action Plan (2023–2030), endorsement of Bangkok Declaration, and establishment of a global coalition for oral health.



Outside of the FDI Parliament, NZDA holds meetings with various other nations, including the Perth group (consisting of America, Canada, South Korea, Japan, Australia, the UK and NZ), The Four Countries Meeting (Japan, South Korea, Australia and NZ) and the Irish Dental Association’s, Keiran O’Connor. These are a really valuable chance to discuss what the main issues are in all our countries, and it is perhaps not surprising that we are all facing very similar problems in terms of workforce, the cost of regulation, access to care, environmental sustainability, competency, medical and dental integration, and electronic health records.

America, France, and Germany also host social evening gatherings which are a great way to connect more personally with all the other nations and delegates attending. It was a lot of fun to be able to attend these.

NZDA’s Oral Health Promotion Manager, Anishma Ram also presented at this FDI congress. Her topic was “Dental characteristics profile of children living with disabilities in Auckland New Zealand”. The presentation included the oral health landscape of New Zealand and highlighted gaps that require both a system and policy reform in terms of dental care access for this vulnerable population.



Next FDI Conference and Parliament to be held in Shanghai, China, September 6th – 12th (congress will be the 9th – 12th) 2025.

FDI is an amazing organisation which advocates strongly, on behalf of over one million dentists, for the improved oral health for all. It runs a multitude of projects that serve some of the most vulnerable populations, including refugees all worldwide and provides a fantastic range of resources that we can all access easily, no matter what corner of the world we live in. We can all feel proud to be members of this organisation.

More information on FDI and resources – FDI website fdiworlddental.org



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NZDA Spokesperson – Nutrition and Oral Health





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NZDA Oral Health Promotion – Anishma Ram





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World Oral Health Day 2025



Celebrating the Connection Between Oral Health and Mental Well-being

On the 20th March 2025, New Zealand proudly participated in World Oral Health Day, a global campaign created by the FDI World Dental Federation and proudly supported by the New Zealand Dental Association.

This year's theme, "A Happy Mouth is a Happy Mind," highlighted the vital link between oral health and mental well-being. The campaign spotlighted the powerful connection between oral health and mental well-being. It served as a reminder that healthy smiles go beyond physical health, they help build self-esteem, reduce anxiety, and support emotional wellness.

Dental teams, schools, families, and communities across Aotearoa embraced the campaign with

creativity, compassion and energy bringing the message to life in countless meaningful ways.

As part of the campaign, NZDA launched three national competitions designed to spark positive conversations about oral health and well-being across all age groups.

Colouring Competition

(Ages 12 and under)

Children across the country were invited to colour a special "Happy Mouth is a Happy Mind" illustration celebrating the joy, confidence, and creativity that comes from having a healthy smile.

We received an overwhelming number of entries from schools and early childhood centres nationwide, showcasing the artistic flair and enthusiasm from our youngest participants.



Congratulations to our winners:

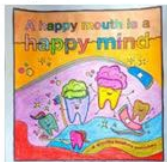
- **Macey Marriott** from Leith School in North Canterbury – \$100 Whitcoulls voucher
- **Vibhaa Pandrang** from Tawhero Primary School in Whanganui – \$100 Whitcoulls voucher
- **Manuka class of Grant's Braes School** in Dunedin – Oral hygiene kits for 30 students and an electric toothbrush for the teacher

World Oral Health Day 2025

Colouring Competition winners



Macey Marriott



Vibhaa Pandrang



Manuka class of Grant's Braes School

Social Media Challenge – Tag & Win

The public was invited to join our **WOHD Tag & Win Challenge** by sharing tips and habits that support a confident smile. Participants tagged friends and used the hashtags #WOHD2025 and #HappyMouth, helping amplify the campaign across Instagram and Facebook.

We received fantastic responses from all corners of Aotearoa, with a wide range of posts from daily dental routines to powerful confidence-boosting stories. The challenge not only spread oral health awareness but also inspired a wave of personal reflection, peer encouragement, and practical health-sharing across social platforms. Our randomly selected winners received a prize pack including a rechargeable electric toothbrush and a water flosser:

Congratulations to our 'Tag & Win' winners:

- **Doug Ashley-Miller** – Facebook
- **@rayshort54** – Instagram

The **WOHD 2025 social media campaign** sparked outstanding engagement, igniting positive conversations around oral health, mental wellness, and self-care. Social media proved to be a powerful tool—not only for spreading awareness—but also for empowering individuals to take control of their oral health in a supportive, connected online community.

Social Media Highlights:

Combined Results (Instagram + Facebook):

- **Over 260,000 total views**
- **Over 110,000 total reach**
- **543 combined interactions**
- **+119 new Instagram followers** over the 3-week campaign

Participants shared a wide range of thoughtful and practical tips. Here are some of the highlights:

- "Limit sugar, swill water after caffeine, and brush with your non-dominant hand it's a great for brain health. And invest in a good quality toothbrush!"
- "I use adult toothpaste for my kids but I go with something milder like Colgate Cavity Protection, so it's not too spicy."
- "Electric toothbrushes are a game changer! I replace the heads every 3 months and carry mini dental brushes when I'm on the go."



Member Challenge: Smiles That Change Lives

In addition to the public competitions, NZDA invited members to participate in the **WOHD Member Challenge**, this was an opportunity to share how they brought this year's theme to life within their practice or community.

Congratulations to our Member Challenge winner:

NZDA President Amanda Johnston visited the Assisted Learning Classroom at Te Kamo Intermediate School in Whangarei to deliver a fun and engaging oral health session. Using World Oral Health Day (WOHD) resources, each student was gifted a new toothbrush pack to help encourage healthy habits and brighter smiles.



WOHD 2025 was a celebration of creativity, compassion, and community. It highlighted the incredible role dental professionals play not only in supporting oral health, but also in nurturing confidence, emotional wellness, and a sense of well-being.

NZDA extends heartfelt thanks to all members, schools, whānau, and community partners who supported this year's campaign. Together, we've helped create a stronger understanding of the mouth-mind connection and spread thousands of smiles across Aotearoa.

World Oral Health Day 2025

Media Spotlight

The campaign's impact extended beyond social and community channels, with two media stories highlighting WOHD and NZDA's leadership in oral health:

- **New Zealand Doctor** – "Dental Association shares top tips for a healthy mouth on World Oral Health Day"

<https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/GE2503/S00057/dental-association-shares-top-tips-for-a-healthy-mouth-on-world-oral-health-day.htm>

- **SunLive** – "Shining a light on dental health" – *The Bay's News First*

<https://www.sunlive.co.nz/news/362560-shining-a-light-on-dental-health.html>



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For the Common Good

<https://roadmap.nzda.org.nz/>

New Zealand Dental Association

Roadmap

Towards Better Oral Health for New Zealand



New Zealand
Dental Assoc.

For the common
good since 1905.
NZDA.org.nz

2025-2030

Importance of NLO

The NLO - Acts as a conduit between national dental associations and FDI, shaping global policy with local insight.

The NLO - Ensures ethical alignment and best practice through regular, transparent communication with FDI and the NDA and its members.

And so...

Through collaboration the NLO helps to advance FDI's vision of "optimal oral health for all".





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Ngā Mihi Nui.

Thank you.



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