

## WORKSHOP ABSTRACT

### **Integrating Oral and General Health Care in Australia: Utilising Aged Care to demonstrate essential elements of this global issue.**

2nd Asia Pacific Conference on Integrated Care, Melbourne, 11-13 November 2019

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Good Oral Health (OH) is important for general health and wellbeing.

Oral diseases (tooth decay, gum disease and oral cancer), although largely preventable, are among the most prevalent chronic diseases in Australia. As with chronic disease, oral disease follows a socio- economic gradient. The most vulnerable people wait years for public dental care, whilst disease worsens.

Evidence indicates that poor OH impacts on management of general diseases and negatively impacts quality of life (QoL). For example, gum disease and diabetes have a bi-directional relationship. Untreated gum disease can affect glycemic control and lead to complications.

Health literacy, early detection and intervention are key to primary disease prevention and management.

Historically, the mouth has been separated from the body across health education programs, service delivery, policy setting and funding. To reduce costs and improve health outcomes, spending on dental care must be shifted from a focus on surgical treatment to early intervention and prevention. OH must be integrated into general health with all health professionals sharing responsibility for OH promotion and prevention. This quantum shift challenges traditional values and practices, requires leadership in change, and capacity building for consumers and the healthcare sector.

Many issues need addressing at clinical, professional, organisational and system levels to fully realise the population and economic benefits of sharing responsibility for OH care. It is crucial to demonstrate to government and policy makers the improved health, well-being and economic benefits of integrating OH into preventive models of general healthcare.

**Aims and Objectives:** To address the factors required for integration of OH into general healthcare systems utilising an example of the aged population in Australia. The following will be achieved:

a. Demonstration of a model of care in the aged care sector that integrates oral health as part of the general health care of this population

Martin; Integrating Oral and General Health Care in Australia: Utilising Aged Care to demonstrate essential elements of this global issue.

b. The development of the key elements of a consensus statement and framework for integrating OH into general health

**Target audience:** Healthcare professionals, policy makers, health funders, carers and consumers

**Learnings:**

- a. How Oral Health care contributes to the overall management of chronic conditions
- b. General healthcare professionals' roles in contributing to good oral and general health
- c. Simple, low cost interventions that can significantly contribute to improved QoL in vulnerable populations
- d. Examples of current interdisciplinary models of healthcare in Aged Care
- e. Essential elements of a consensus statement for the integration of OH with general health care

**Format:**

Introduction, 5 minutes, A/Prof Rachel Martin

The problem, 5 minutes, Prof Clive Wright

Models of oral health for aged care, 20 minutes. Presenters: A/Prof Janet Wallace, Dr Kavitha Sivsithamparam

Panel discussion, 45 minutes, Essentials for OH integration into general care: Aged Care example

Moderator: Prof Clive Wright. Invited Panel members: Geriatrician, Council of the Ageing, Personal Carer, Nurse, Oral Health Professional, Aged Care Industry.

Summary, 15 minutes, From consensus statement to policy – considering the landscape. Dr Lisa Studdert, Deputy Secretary for Population Health, Sport and Aged Care Quality

Preferred length: 90 minutes