

| First Name | Surname | Bio |
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| Rebecca | Bentley | <p>Growing up in Melbourne, I was raised by two parents who were originally farmers in rural NSW. Alongside my passion for health, these family dynamics are what has inspired me in areas of advocacy and value-based care.</p> <p>I have worked across the public, private and academic sector. Completing my BOHSc and MPH, I now work full time in the Victorian public sector with a focus on prevention, education and equity of access in care to regional/rural areas. I completed my MPH thesis on value based oral healthcare and would love to continue to add to this space through work and leadership with OHAA.</p> |
| Cathryn | Carboon | <p>Cathryn is a registered, practicing dental hygienist and holds a Master of Health Promotion from Deakin University. Cathryn has had a diverse career for 40 years in both the public and private dental sector; working in general practice, orthodontics, periodontics and special needs dentistry. Cathryn has practiced in many parts of the world, including Adelaide, Brisbane, Ballarat, Wangaratta, Neuss (Germany) and Wellington (New Zealand).</p> <p>Cathryn brings with her extensive clinical knowledge and experience, and has been a valued member of the Colgate Professional Education Network since 2006, working closely with the University and TAFE sectors to educate the future profession.</p> <p>Cathryn is currently OHAA VIC TAS Co-Chair and OHAA representative on the Australian Dental Association (Victorian Branch) Oral Health Committee and the Victorian Oral Health Alliance.</p> <p>Cathryn served 10 years as National Network Coordinator for Oral Health with Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health. Cathryn was a member of the Dental Hygienists Association of Australia since 1988 and was honoured with Life Membership in 2024.</p> <p>Cathryn has won multiple awards including the 2023 International Federation of Dental Hygienist's (IFDH) Social Responsibility Award, the 2016 IFDH & Global Child Dental Fund Social Responsibility Award and the 2018 DHAA National Oral Health Award.</p> |
| Stephanie | Chang | <p>I am a lecturer and first-year coordinator at the University of Melbourne for the Bachelor of Oral Health as well as work clinically as an OHT in the city.</p> <p>I have been on the DHAA committee for 3 years and have had a major role in organising speakers for our CPD events in the past.</p> <p>As an educator, I have a great interest in organising events that members find valuable and feel my network at the University is beneficial in finding speakers for our events.</p> |
| Michael | Charlton-Fitzgerald | <p>Graduated as a Hygienist from Newcastle University in 2014. Have worked across QLD, TAS and WA. No working in orthodontics in Hobart, Tasmania. Previously held the position of chair for the DHAA in TAS.</p> |

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| Amrinder | Grewal | <p>I am a registered dental hygienist, having graduated from TAFE SA in 2011. I have worked in both the public and private sectors. Additionally, I worked as a dentist under supervision at the Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne for one year.</p> <p>I am currently working full-time at a private clinic, Wills Street Dental, for approximately eight years.</p> <p>I strive to contribute to the preventative aspect of dentistry, which I believe is a very important part of our profession. I endeavor to provide the best and most ethical services to your patients.</p> <p>Maintaining rapport and encouraging patients to maintain their oral health, which contributes to holistic health, is my focus and is an agenda at our clinic.</p> <p>My future plans are to update my skills and work in our profession for the next 20 years.</p> |
| Mariam | Halima | <p>I am passionate about Oral Health and supporting the progression of our profession as a whole.</p> |
| Sarah | Laing | <p>I am a registered Dental Hygienist, Lecturer, Clinical Educator, and education-focused academic with more than 25 years of experience across clinical practice, tertiary education, and the broader oral health sector. I have worked in the dental industry since 1996, graduating from the University of Melbourne in 2001, and my career has included specialist periodontal practice, clinical program management, leadership roles within Bupa, and extensive work in oral health education. I am currently writing up my Doctorate application in the field of periodontal education and seeking Industry sponsorship.</p> <p>At the University of Melbourne, I lecture in Periodontics and Health Policy and coordinate Society and Health 1 in the Bachelor of Oral Health. I teach Periodontics across the program and am known for a student-centred, supportive teaching approach. My qualifications span oral health, health industry management, and tertiary teaching: DipOHT (Dental Hygiene) GCHlthIndMgmt MHIthIndMgmt GCertUniTeach. I have completed mental health first aid training twice and most recently completed the mentor program with DHAA.</p> <p>I have been an advocate for the DHAA and the profession since before the formation of the OHAA, and I have contributed consistently for more than 15 years. I previously served as Chair of the Victorian CPD Committee, currently serve as Vice Chair, and continue to support the branch through CPD development, Industry and member engagement. My ongoing work with the Swiss Dental Academy/EMS and Erskine/Piksters strengthens my industry partnerships, while my academic and clinical roles focus on advancing periodontal education, tactile skill development, and sustainable models of oral health care. In summary, I bring a wealth of experience and ability to mentor new additions to the Vic/Tas Committee.</p> |

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| Fotini (Teena) | Lazaridis | <p>I am a dedicated and passionate dental hygienist with over 35 years of clinical experience. I pride myself on my gentle approach and dedication to educating patients about their oral health. My career as a dental health practitioner has provided me with an ability to increase oral health awareness as well as preventing and controlling periodontal disease being a key facet of dental and general health. I am continuously striving to enhance my skills and staying updated with all the latest advancements in Dental Hygiene. Throughout my career I have had the opportunity to mentor many a new graduate hygienist and helped them to navigate their new career path.</p> <p>I have worked at the Australian Dental Council for the last 8 years as an examiner for clinical competency and assessments of international dental hygiene candidates. More recently involved with the written papers and practical exam ensuring national standards of safety and quality.</p> <p>Outside of my work in dental hygiene I volunteer as a Justice of the Peace.</p> <p>I embarked on this journey during Covid. It is very rewarding meeting a vast array of the public and being able to assist them.</p> <p>Walking and gardening are my outside hobbies for relaxing and enjoying time with my family and friends.</p> |
| Sophie | McKenna | <p>I'm an Oral Health Therapist with over a decade of experience in the public sector in both clinical and non-clinical roles. I've also worked in private practice. I've previously taught into the Bachelor of Oral Health program at La Trobe University and I currently teach into the Bachelor of Oral Health program at the University of Melbourne. I also currently work for Oral Health Victoria as oral health advisor for the school dental program Smile Squad and I am actively involved in mentoring and graduate programs.</p> |
| Veronica | Modra | <p>Graduated Dental Hygienist 1995 from Gillies Plains. Have always been a member of DHAA. Happy to help out in a volunteer capacity at conferences. I live in regional Vic so am not always available for weekday/evening events.</p> <p>Working history of Orthodontics (30 years) Periodontics (12 years) General practice (30 years) still working full time across 3 practices. Mum of 2 adult boys.</p> |

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| Arish | Naresh | <p>I have been in Australia for past 6 years and currently live in Hobart. I am a strong advocate for oral health having published a number of papers over the past few years and providing leadership in the oral health sector across Asia and the Pacific. I have been chair of NZDOHTA for 8 years in the past and would like to contribute to OHAA. My brief bio is as below</p> <p>Arish Naresh ONZM, JP, CHE, FACHSM, CSM, Registered Dental Therapist, is a senior health executive and clinician with a career spanning Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, and the Pacific. He is currently Chief Executive Officer of The Hobart Clinic in Tasmania, having previously served as Executive Manager for Risk and Clinical Governance at the Clinic, Director of Professional Experience Placement and Clinical Governance Project Manager in the College of Health and Medicine at the University of Tasmania, and Chief Executive Officer across Kilmore District Health and Omeo District Health in Victoria. Earlier, he held system leadership roles including Program Director at the Royal Adelaide Hospital/Central Adelaide LHN, Chief Allied Health Professions Officer at Capital & Coast DHB (Wellington), Director of Allied Health at Hauora Tairāwhiti, and Regional Manager for Child, Youth and Community Oral Health.</p> <p>Arish's governance and improvement practice is grounded in formal training from top-tier institutions: Design Thinking at Harvard University; Health Economics and Health Policy at the London School of Economics; and Clinical Governance for Patient Safety and Quality Care through the Australian Institute of Clinical Governance. He holds a PhD in Leadership Ministry (Bethesda Biblical Institute, New Delhi), a Master of Health Science with Distinction and a PGDip in Health Services Management (Eastern Institute of Technology, NZ), a PGCert in Health Science – Leadership/Health Management (AUT), a Certificate in Mauri Ora (Te Wānanga o Aotearoa), and a Diploma in Dental Therapy with Honours (Fiji School of Medicine). He is a Certified Health Executive, Fellow of the Australasian College of Health Service Managers, Certified Scrum Master, and Certified DiSC Consultant.</p> |
| Michaela | Pitcaithly | <p>As an Oral Health Therapist, I graduated from La Trobe University in 2016 and have since been working within private dental practice. My current role is twofold: I provide clinical care to patients and also take on management responsibilities. I find great satisfaction in supporting and mentoring fellow OHPs across several clinics in Melbourne's CBD. To further enhance my skills and knowledge, I completed an MBA through the University of Adelaide in 2025. I have been involved as a volunteer previously with organising CPD event with the DHAA and recently this year with OHAA. I love getting to context with other members at our events!</p> |

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| Amber | Stevanov (Yeo) | <p>I graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1998, primarily focusing on general practice and periodontics. Throughout my career, I have held various positions within the Dental Hygienists Association of Australia (DHAA) Victoria branch, serving both on the executive and non-executive committees. Currently, I am engaged in academia as a clinical lecturer and coordinator for the second year of the Bachelor of Oral Health program, where I am dedicated to shaping the future generation of Oral Health Therapists.</p> <p>My professional interests have consistently centred in fostering a robust association among practitioners, and I have actively participated in advocacy efforts aimed at promoting the independence of practitioners. This has included campaigning for the allocation of provider numbers from local and federal parliamentarians. Additionally, I possess a Master of Public Health and a Graduate Certificate in Clinical Education, which further underpin my commitment to advancing the field of Oral Health.</p> |
| Tori | Tanswell | <p>I'm an OHT who has grown up in a small rural town in NSW, completed my studies at a rural university and have since been working in rural and remote areas in NSW, VIC, and NT.</p> <p>I love being a part of rural/remote communities and am grateful for the opportunities it has given me throughout my life.</p> |
| Keira | Venables | <p>I have nearly 20 year experience as an oral health therapist working in private clinics and I have also had the privilege working with RFDS where I have seen first hand the impact oral health services have in remote and rural communities.</p> <p>In the last few years I have transitioned to an education focused role with The University of Melbourne and I have a strong interest in public health and health promotion.</p> |