

# Media release

24 July 2020

## Border closures impacting on community's oral health

The Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch (ADAVB) is concerned about the impact that the NSW border closure is having on the oral health of border communities. When the border closure was first announced, travel for necessary health care was permitted, and health care workers were able to cross the border for work. The recent tightening of the NSW border now means that anyone travelling from Victoria to NSW must self-isolate for 14 days in NSW.

ADAVB is aware of a number of dental practices on the Victorian side of the Murray River who have staff members living in NSW who must cross the border every day. The requirement to self-isolate effectively means that these essential health care workers can no longer travel to Victoria to provide necessary dental care.

In addition, there are many patients from NSW who travel to Victoria for dental treatment, including specialist dental care. These patients are now not able to travel to Victoria for dental care unless they are prepared to self-isolate on their return.

Dr Angelo Pacella, ADAVB President, said, "The border restrictions have impacted on the capacity of dental practices to provide dental care to border communities, and patients in need of essential or urgent dental care will be forced to delay or cancel their treatment.

"The ADAVB strongly supports measures designed to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 into regional Victoria and NSW. However, these measures in communities where there are currently very few active cases of COVID-19, are likely to have a significant impact on the oral health of people in need of essential or emergency dental care."

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## **Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch**

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Oral health is integral to good overall health, and the ADAVB is calling on both the Victorian and NSW governments to find a practical solution to allow people to continue to visit the dentist to receive the care they need.

## Media enquiries

Interviews are available with ADAVB President Dr Angelo Pacella.

## Contact

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