



GIVE A SMILE BACKGROUNDER

December 2012

Give a Smile broadens Aussie grins with a commitment to providing pro bono specialist orthodontic care to as many under-privileged Australian children as possible.

In 2010 Give a Smile, a charitable arm of the Australian Society of Orthodontists (ASO), set a target of 1000 patients treated through this initiative by the end of that year. That target was reached easily - and the numbers have since grown.

Founded in 2005, Give a Smile has facilitated orthodontic treatment for well over 1200 children throughout Australia, providing pro bono care by specialist orthodontists for in-need Australian families who could not otherwise afford private orthodontic treatment.

But it's not just about health – the self-esteem and emotional benefits that these children experience following their Give a Smile™ treatment are immeasurable.

“Give a Smile has been an incredibly successful and rewarding initiative for all involved. To be in a position where we have now treated more than 1200 patients in just seven years is an amazing achievement,” said Give a Smile’s Chair Dr. Ted Crawford,

Patients accepted into the Give a Smile program are offered a full-program of orthodontic care which, depending on their needs, takes an average of two years to complete. This equates to a saving to the public system of between \$6,000 and \$8,000 per patient.

At present, there are more than 260 Give a Smile orthodontists right across Australia offering their unique skills to children in need – from Bunbury to Cairns and in between. The impressive support level of over 60% of all ASO orthodontists has resulted in a massive 10% reduction in public orthodontic waiting lists nation-wide.

The work of Give a Smile orthodontists is not simply changing the lives of these young people – although this is the most crucial and valued aspect of the program. In addition Give a Smile has saved Australian taxpayers more than \$7 million dollars since its inception in 2005. It is now forging towards a target of 1,500 patients and beyond over the next few years– thus spreading more smiles across Australia.

Renowned Australian comedian and actor, Shane Bourne, has been a great supporter of Give a Smile since its inception: “The work that the Give a Smile orthodontists undertake is so important to the communities in which they work; and their ongoing contribution through this initiative is really making a difference to the lives of many young people. Health aside, the more smiles we see in Australia, the better!” says Bourne.

For all media enquiries, interviews with Shane Bourne, Dr Ted Crawford or a Give a Smile beneficiary from your local area, please contact: Give a Smile at info@giveasmile.org.au or call Leah on 0414 249 795

About Give a Smile

Give a Smile is a goodwill, pro bono treatment program initiated and sponsored by the Australian Society of Orthodontists.

Give a Smile: www.giveasmile.org.au

Australian Society of Orthodontists: www.aso.org.au