



## **Fact Sheet**

23 March 2006

### **The Give a Smile™ program**

The foremost goal of Give a Smile™ is to enable ASO orthodontists to give a smile both figuratively and literally to Australians who are in great need of orthodontic care yet whose financial circumstances prevent them from accessing treatment through the private health system.

Each Give a Smile™ orthodontist has pledged to accept a minimum of one patient per year from the public health waiting list into their practice. Each treatment takes approximately two years and would normally cost around \$5-7,000 per patient. All the work the orthodontist will undertake will be pro-bono.

Give a Smile™ has been developed so that participating orthodontists have the opportunity to spread goodwill in the community by way of volunteering their professional care and expertise. The program also takes strain off the public waiting lists. Public dental health waiting lists have decreased by 10% since the launch of Give a Smile™ in June 2005. That's saving more than \$1 million per year for taxpayers.

### **The Logistics**

All participants in Give a Smile™ are volunteers and are involved because they believe in the goodwill of the program and its benefits.

The program uses the existing dental health structures in Australia to match Give a Smile™ orthodontists with patients.

Each state and territory has at least one Give a Smile™ Screener who is responsible for identifying potential Give a Smile™ patients.

Each state or territory also has a Give a Smile™ Liaison Officer who maintains a list of all Give a Smile™ orthodontists in their respective region.

The Screener and Liaison Officer then work together to allocate a Give a Smile™ patient to a Give a Smile™ Orthodontist.

For more information about Give a Smile™ please visit our website at [www.giveasmile.org.au](http://www.giveasmile.org.au) or call our hotline on 1300 661 613

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**Give a Smile™ is a proud initiative from:**



Australian Society  
of Orthodontists

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