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## **New Centre for Clinical Research Excellence - Oral Health**

The Australian Dental Association (ADA) congratulates Professor Mark Bartold, University of Adelaide, on the \$2.4 million grant awarded for a new Centre for Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE) for Oral Health.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has awarded grants of up to \$2.5 million each for six new Centres for Clinical Research Excellence (CCREs) to carry out high-quality clinical research. Translating research results, or evidence, into clinical practice is recognised as one of the world's most critical areas for improving healthcare delivery.

The CCRE for Oral Health will focus on the prevention and treatment of oral diseases and disorders and their clinical consequences. Research will emphasise three areas of clinical care that are critical to the management of oral health, systemic health and general well-being. These areas include primary prevention to prevent disease onset; diagnosis and risk prediction for oral conditions; and clinical intervention.

Dr Neil Hewson, Federal President of the ADA said, "The grant to CCRE for Oral Health is most welcome as the ADA has been calling for greater investment into oral health and dental research for some time. Given the relationship between oral health and general health, and that oral diseases are a major public health problem in Australia with a high economic burden, greater funding for oral health research is paramount. Hopefully this is a sign of increased focus by the NHMRC into this area."

"Funding for oral health research in the past has not possessed the same degree of money magnetism as can be found with many other areas of medical and pharmacological research. Given current research in Australia and overseas is continuing to identify links between dental and oral disease and broader health problems, the ADA is pleased that the NHMRC has recognized the importance of oral health research. Investment in this area will have a significant impact on the welfare of all Australians."

The NHMRC grant will fund the CCRE for Oral Health for five years, commencing this year.

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The Australian Dental Association Inc. (ADA) is the peak national professional body representing about 10,000 registered dentists engaged in clinical practice. ADA members work in both the public and private sectors. The primary objectives of the ADA are to encourage the improvement of the health of the public and to promote the art and science of dentistry.