**Poor water quality may be factor in high consumption of sugary drinks**

By DTI

The poor state of Australians’ oral health has received much needed attention over recent years. For some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their oral health is severely compromised owing to the consumption of sugary drinks, according to a recent study by researchers from the Australian National University (ANU).

According to Rethink Sugary Drink, some male Australians aged between 12 and 24 consume 1.5 litres of soft drinks, sports drinks or energy drinks a day. High consumption of such beverages has had a huge impact on the oral health of many people, and calls for better labelling and sugar tax have been made to help mitigate the situation. However, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in remote communities, it is not only that they are consuming these drinks, but also, according to this recent study, many of them feel that they have no healthier option, owing to the poor quality of drinking water. Families living in regional and remote settings have expressed concern about the safety and quality of drinking water,” said lead author Dr Katherine Thurber.

What is perhaps more concerning is that the habit of high consumption of sugary drinks is introduced at a very young age. In the study, researchers focused their attention on infants and toddlers aged 0-3 years. Data was gathered from 900 participants, and the results showed that 50% had consumed some form of sugary drink.CORDIAL was the beverage most commonly consumed at 47%, followed by soft drinks at 19% and sweetened tea and coffee at 15%. The remaining 50% of the participants had not consumed any form of sugary drink in their first three years of life, which researchers noted as a positive in the otherwise concerning results. Speaking about what could be done to make improvements, Thurber said, “Families need relevant advice from health professionals, but improving information and knowledge is only one part of the solution. We also need programmes and policies to improve the social determinants of health if we want to improve nutrition.”

The gap between the oral health of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians is closing, which indicates that the national focus on the issue may be having an impact. As reported by the researchers at ANU, babies and toddlers living in cities and regional centres were significantly less likely to consume sugary drinks than were children in remote areas. However, as reported recently by Dental Tribune International, 90% of Australian adults experience caries in their permanent teeth, and therefore, there is still plenty of work to be done.

The study, titled “Sugar-sweetened beverage consumption among Indigenous Australian children aged 0–3 years and association with sociodemographic, life circumstances and health factors”, was published on 28 August 2019 in Public Health Nutrition, ahead of inclusion in an issue.

**Straumann Group and Modern Dental Group join forces to serve customers in Hong Kong and Macau**

By Straumann

BASEL, Switzerland/HONG KONG, China: The Straumann Group, a global leader in implant and aesthetic dentistry, and Modern Dental Group, a leading global provider of dental prosthetic devices, have entered a joint venture to create Peak Dental Solutions Hong Kong. This distribution company will serve the dental communities in Hong Kong and Macau in China from the fourth quarter of this year. Straumann and Modern Dental Group will invest substantially in the joint venture and will own respective stakes of 40% and 60%. Financial details were not disclosed.

Straumann’s dental implant products have been available for many years in Hong Kong through its long-standing local distribution partner, Advance Dental Consulting, which has made an important contribution to the establishment of Straumann as a local market leader. However, further investment in the distribution channel is necessary in order to cater for the group’s rapidly expanding business portfolio and forthcoming launches. Straumann has therefore reached an agreement with Advance Dental Consulting that enables Peak Dental Solutions to take over the distribution of its products.

The Straumann Group’s portfolio of dental solutions has increased significantly in the past year alone, for example with the addition of its next-generation fully tapered implant, BLX, and its fully ceramic two-piece implant system. To offer further levels of affordability, the group has added Anthogyr to its implant portfolio alongside Neodent and MEDENTIKA, which are complemented by attractively priced implant options from T-Plus and Waranett.

One of the most exciting areas of expansion is the digital segment, where Straumann’s most recent additions include the TRIOS, CS 3600 and Virtuo Vivo intra-oral scanners, as well as Medit laboratory scanners, not forgetting its range of milling machines and 3D printers. Furthermore, the group is preparing to enter the Asian clear aligner market with ClearCorrect and Symbiote: its goal is to make all of these solutions available to more customers in Hong Kong and Macau from a single service partner.

Peak Dental Solutions will have at its disposal the broadest range of replacement, restorative, corrective and digital dental solutions, and it will have access to the combined customer base of both companies, enabling it to capitalise on cross-selling opportunities. It will collaborate with Modern Dental Laboratory to develop and provide educational programmes via the Center of Dental Education in Hong Kong. Beyond this, customers will have access to the education and support networks of Straumann and the International Team for Implantology.

The Straumann Group and Modern Dental Group have created their own distribution company to serve dental communities in Hong Kong and Macau.

(Photograph: rawpixel.com/Shutterstock)
New data paints a clearer picture about Australian dental practitioners

By DTI

SYDNEY, Australia: Understanding the dental industry is a key function of the Dental Board of Australia, and the board plays an important role in the regulation of dental practitioners. Recently, the board released data on the state of the profession with regard to new registrations. The data gathered informs the board’s decisions on standards, codes and guidelines for the dental profession.

According to the latest data, during the period of 1 April to 30 June 2019, an additional 101 dental practitioners registered across Australia, pushing the number of registrants overall to 23,730, of which 17,727 were dentists. Breaking down the numbers by sex, the report stated that 51.8% were female (12,304) and 48.2% male (11,426) and that 494 women and 1,274 men held specialist registration.

In addition to the data on new registrations and sex, the data from the Dental Board of Australia painted a clearer picture on where dental professionals are working. It shows that the majority of registrants are based in either New South Wales or Victoria (29.20% and 23.33%, respectively). The next largest groups practise in Queensland (20.21%), Western Australia (11.54%) and South Australia (8.26%).

The Dental Board of Australia noted that its functions include: developing standards, codes and guidelines for the dental profession; handling notifications, complaints, investigations and disciplinary hearings; overseeing the assessment of overseas-trained practitioners who wish to practise in Australia; and approving accreditation standards and accredited courses of study.

Statistics released by the Dental Board of Australia show that there were 101 new registrations of dental practitioners across Australia during the period of 1 April to 30 June 2019. (Photograph: wavebreakmedia/Shutterstock)

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The Dental Board of Australia noted that its functions include: registering dentists, students, dental specialists, dental therapists, dental hygienists, oral health therapists and dental prosthetists; developing standards, codes and guidelines for the dental profession; handling notifications, complaints, investigations and disciplinary hearings; overseeing the assessment of overseas-trained practitioners who wish to practise in Australia; and approving accreditation standards and accredited courses of study.