I am delighted to welcome you to the 36th Australian Dental Congress at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. I am also very pleased to welcome you to Brisbane, my home town.

The theme of the scientific programme, “The future is here”, will allow all attending to review the state of our scientific evidence and the art of dentistry that fills the gaps in that evidence and to look to what the future may have in store.

The local organising committee, led by Congress Chairman Dr David Thomson, has chosen three distinguished international keynote speakers to guide us on our journey of discovery. They are well supported by an eclectic mix of local speakers who will continue to expand on the theme.

Four separate streams will ensure that there is something to appeal to all tastes. In addition to the main programme, pre-congress hands-on workshops are featured, and there are more than 50 Lunch and Learn sessions, which have been very popular.

No Australian Dental Congress would be complete without comprehensive social and accompanying persons’ programmes. Our congress in Brisbane will showcase the delights of Queensland hospitality and entertainment, starting with the welcome reception through to the several exciting events on Saturday night.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to Dr Thomson and the local organising committee for their dedication, hard work and enthusiasm in planning this congress. Also, I thank all our generous sponsors, whose support has enabled the committee to put together such stimulating events and programmes.

I hope you enjoy all the congress has to offer—the continuing professional development and the interaction with your peers—and return to your practices with enthusiasm.

ADC 2015, a journey of discovery

Words of greeting from Dr Rick Olive, Federal President of the Australian Dental Association
**Welcome message from Dr David H. Thomson, chairman of the local organising committee for the 36th Australian Dental Congress**

The theme for the congress is “The future is here.” The main speakers will be discussing whether the future is here or whether further innovation and development are possible.

The overall slogan for this congress and indeed all congresses since 2010 is “Educating for dental excellence” and this underpins the core business of the congress: the scientific programme.

The Scientific Program Division, chaired by Prof. Ian Meyers, has arranged a contemporary and comprehensive programme featuring three overseas keynote speakers who will present unopposed on the opening day and at the final session on Sunday. In addition to this, there will be papers by local and international presenters. With four concurrent sessions and a diverse range of topics to choose from, there is something for everyone.

In addition, there are pre-congress courses at three venues and 20 Lunch and Learn sessions on each of the three days, providing registrants with the opportunity for a more personal learning experience.

There are extended programmes for dental assistants, practice managers and other members of the dental team too.

A comprehensive accompanying persons’ programme has been organised to provide a broad range of activities catering for all interests. There is also an accompanying persons’ lounge for meeting and relaxation.

Dr Marcus Tod, Chairman of the Entertainment Division, has arranged a not-to-be-missed welcome reception on the Wednesday evening and a spectacular entertainment event for Saturday night. The scientific programme is important, but the social events provide an opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones.

All of this is taking place in the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, an award-winning and world-class venue. It is adjacent to the South Bank Precinct with its numerous cafés and restaurants and, of course, its beach with lifeguards. For those with more cultural interests, there is the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Queensland Museum, the Queensland Art Gallery and the Gallery of Modern Art.

The latest congress information and updates are available at the congress website www.adc2015.com, as well as via the congress app.

I hope that you enjoy the scientific and social programmes and experience the hospitality of Brisbane.

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**Welcome to Australia’s new world city**

Message from the Right Honourable, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Councillor Graham Quirk

With our strong proximity to Asia, Brisbane has an international feel. We recently hosted the G20 summit, ensuring further global recognition of our city. It is also passionate about digital innovation. We were the second country in the world to appoint a Chief Digital Officer. Complementing this is our strong culture of entrepreneurship as demonstrated by our start-up culture, our strong retail offering, and our culture of food and fine dining.

Festivals as diverse as BrisAsia and the Brisbane Comedy Festival punctuate our calendar, and the city hosts the internationally recognised Asia Pacific Screen Awards. This year, the Asia Pacific Cities Summit, one of the region’s premier business and civic forums, will take place here. This provides a platform for governments and businesses to identify a common agenda, improve city governance, and promote trade and investment opportunities in the entire region. We are looking forward to welcoming you to our cosmopolitan and tropical city.

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**“It is very difficult to escape from your professional status”**

An interview with Gary Smith, Melbourne

Having been actively involved in the health care business for over 30 years, Melbourne-based practice manager Gary Smith is well aware of the shifting demands practitioners are facing today. Increasing service levels, changing expectations of patients, and achieving a competitive edge through up-to-date technology and procedures place increasing pressure on health care professionals in terms of both their time and resources, he said. In his ADC mentoring session, titled “A work/lifestyle balance approach”, on Saturday, 28 March, Smith will address daily stressors and overall strategies to achieve a satisfactory work-life balance today international had the opportunity to talk to him about this subject, and why new technology might not necessarily help reduce the burden.

**Gary Smith**

I believe that the provision of services will become more complicated as a result of further involvement of these two groups. Of course, one of the greatest challenges remains the running of a small to medium enterprise. This, as well as increasing red tape and making a profit, will always pose a challenge.

Are practitioners today more likely to neglect their work-life balance in favour of patients?

This depends on the age group of the practitioners and whether they are owners or contractors. Veterans, baby boomers and Generation X practitioners generally struggle with work-life balance and have a tendency to put their patient first. Generation Y practitioners in contrast are very much aware of their work-life balance.

Many developed countries continue to see an increase in the demand for dental care; what about Australia? And is there a disparity regarding the coverage of dental health care between rural and urban areas?

There appears to be a shortage of qualified dentists, but it is all about the distribution of the professionals. There is indeed a disparity between the urban and the remote rural areas, and it usually needs a very special person to set up a private business in remote places. This can be a substantial financial and time commitment.