

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF ORTHODONTISTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Australian Society
of Orthodontists





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About us

The Australian Society of Orthodontists (ASO) is the largest dental specialist society in Australia and represents around 90% of registered orthodontists in Australia. As the peak body for orthodontists, the ASO is committed to advancing orthodontic knowledge, educating the public and supporting the profession.

The ASO's strategic priorities are:

- Advocacy, and maintaining strong, collaborative relationships within the dental sector
- Public education about evidence-based orthodontic treatment and the specialist practitioners providing orthodontic care
- Providing members with ongoing support, tools and resources so they can thrive throughout their careers
- Supporting research and continuing education in orthodontics
- Maintaining a strong, cohesive organisation, with best practice governance.

We extend our sincere thanks to the many members who generously give their time to actively contribute to the ASO, and who support our activities by serving on committees and state branches.





President Report

2023 was a year of high activity for our Society. We continued to make headway in the pursuit of our strategic priorities, and focused our efforts on key areas and projects that will further advance the ASO's contributions to our profession and safeguard it in the long term. I encourage you to read about the ASO's progress in the various Committee reports provided throughout this report.

Whilst our Society's achievements and contributions are many, the pace of change in the environment we operate in has accelerated and the need for a strong and well governed organisation that can adapt and remain relevant to members is more important than ever.

In the first half of the year we appointed a Company Secretary to enhance and strengthen our capabilities in governance, risk management and due diligence. The Company Secretary is assisting the FAR Committee and ASO with critical tasks such as developing and implementing a Governance framework, risk framework and Register.

Federal Council participated in an investment workshop and changed financial planners to ensure that we secure the best returns for ASO members, and more importantly, invest funds in line with the ASO's risk appetite. The workshop was held by Ord Minnett, and I am sure I speak on behalf of Federal Council that we feel better equipped in this area as a result.

The Foundation meeting in 2023 was held in Sydney with our colleagues from the Australian and New Zealand Association

of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (ANZAOMS). It was very well attended and a great occasion to catch up with many colleagues face to face after the restrictions due to COVID-19.

The CIC Committee continued their important work on Public Education focusing on educating the public to dispel any misinformation, including misrepresentative social media trends, and to ensure that the Orthodontics Australia (OA) website remains a trusted source of consumer information on orthodontics.

There has been an extensive review by the AOB Committee with the overarching aim to making it more attractive to the membership, including streamlining the application process and abolishing the AOB enrolment fee for students to support the next generation of orthodontists.

The ASO continues to be part of the dental sector working group to ensure members are represented and involved in discussions with regulators, and that your voice is heard.

In September, the Federal Council held a strategic planning session and commenced the very important task of developing the ASO's five-year strategic plan. With the input from State Branches and Committee representatives, and under the guidance of strategic facilitator Philip Pogson, Council is formulating a draft which will be shared with membership in due course.

The aim of the review is to articulate the future direction, focus, priorities, and

outcomes for the ASO from 2025-2030. Some overarching themes that have emerged are to support and resource ASO members across all stages of their careers – from student to retirement, to maintain and develop productive dental sector relationships and advocate effectively for the interest of specialist orthodontists, to champion and invest in quality orthodontic education and research, to undertake and resource evidence-based programs to enhance public education and to pursue best practice in ASO's governance and management and invest in productive innovation.

In line with our strategic objective about member engagement and building a strong organisation, the ASO has commenced the implementation of a new Customer Relationship Management system (CRM) and ASO Member website. This significant project is critical to help the ASO to continue to improve every touch point of our member experience while strengthening our operations and governance. It will play an important role in the implementation of our 2025-2030 strategy.

I sincerely thank all who contributed to our achievements last year: our State Branches and Committees, staff, donors, and corporate sponsors. A special mention and acknowledgement to our CEO Kerstin Baas, Federal Executive Simon Freezer and Maurice Meade and Federal Councillors Ros Mayne, Francis Wong, Kip Homewood, Sam Whittle, Marcus Tod and Gosia Barley for their continuing help, support and untiring efforts over the last year. Thanks too to all the staff at the ASO Secretariat,

Kate Harris, Juanita Ward-Harvey, Ian Denney and Chanel Ellwood who are there for members and the public alike.

My time as Federal President is coming to a close and I would like to take a moment to say thank you. It has been an honour and privilege to serve as your President and I am immensely proud of what we have achieved over the last two years.

I have the utmost confidence in the future of orthodontics in Australia and the ASO. The new Federal Council will undoubtedly bring a fresh perspective and new ideas, and I encourage you to embrace their leadership and offer them your unwavering support. I wish the new Council all the best in their future endeavours.

I look forward to seeing the continued growth and success of the ASO and the positive change it brings to our community.

Dr Andrew Toms
President



CEO Report

In 2023 the ASO has gained momentum and it seems like only yesterday that I wrote my previous CEO report.

A key theme for 2023 was member engagement and it was encouraging to see such a high turnout at the 2023 Foundation meeting. The comments from attendees were overwhelmingly positive, and the ASOFRE Committee and ASO Office received valuable feedback and suggestions to make the next Foundation Meeting even more successful. Assisting the ASOFRE with this event was very rewarding, as was working with ANZAOMS on this joint event to further strengthen the collaboration between our associations.

Nurturing the next generation of the profession is one of the ASO's focus areas and the Recent Graduates enjoyed two days of a packed program supported by our sponsors Henry Schein, 3M, AB Orthodontics, American Orthodontics and DentiCare, providing a great platform to learn, network and meet the ASO Federal Council. Being able to present at and meeting the students at the event has been one of many highlights of 2023.

Following feedback from some of the ASO's state branches for the need to further enhance their knowledge and governance skills, the ASO will facilitate a governance session as part of the 2024 Congress, and we look forward to the feedback and further supporting our hardworking state executives and branches.

The ASO continued the review of service providers and made the decision to change Financial Planners. Ord Minnett, who have an Australia wide footprint, conducted an investment strategy and risk workshop for Federal Council which assisted with the formulation of an

investment strategy and policy.

Technology is changing the way orthodontists are performing their work, and this is no different to member associations. The ASO identified the need for investing in new systems to improve the availability of real time decision-making data and reports, using data to tailor member services for all stages of their career and better assist our committees and state branches.

As I am writing this report, the ASO team are in the middle of this significant transformation project and implementing a new Customer Relationship Management system (CRM) and member website to meet those objectives.

Some of the key benefits and focus areas are improved member experience and engagement, productivity, measurement of return on investment for marketing and sponsorship activities, future proofing of the ASO through better data backup and automation of key functions. This is important as due to its size the association is vulnerable to key person risk, creating an even stronger need to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible.

One of the changes you will notice is an improved process for membership applications to ensure members have a good experience from day one, and to allow for faster turnaround times. It will also improve the efficiency of the back office, freeing up time to focus on how to assist members, committees, and state branches, all of whom are volunteers.

Other important changes are the ability to provide a resource and video library for members, better tailoring of membership communications, offering real time data for events to state branches and a streamlined membership renewal and donation process.

A key theme of the strategic planning session was the need for data driven decision making, and the new system will lay the foundation to ensure the ASO has accurate and real time data available at our fingertips. The new system will contribute significantly to building a strong organisation and future proof the ASO.

I would like to thank President Dr Andrew Toms and Federal Council for their guidance, and for being receptive to and supportive of new initiatives and ideas.

I wish the outgoing Executive well and look forward to working with the incoming President and her team to continue to shape and support the orthodontic profession in times of change.

I would also like to thank our committees and volunteers who contribute so much to the society and profession, and to our members for being part of the ASO.

Finally, I would like to thank the ASO team Kate Harris, Juanita Ward-Harvey, Ian Denney, and Chanel Ellwood who contribute every day to support our members and committees.

We look forward to seeing you in Adelaide!

Kerstin Baas
CEO



Treasurer Report

ASO Inc General Purpose Accounts

The ASO Inc General Purpose Accounts for the Society show a closing balance of \$3,967,367 as of 31 December 2023. This is a result of the closing balance of the ASO Inc General Purpose Accounts at the end of 2022 of \$4,246,107 and deducting the loss of \$278,740 during the 2023 year.

Our income from subscriptions, member levies as well as advertising has remained strong with a total revenue of \$1,039,179 – please note that congress levies or conference income was not allocated to the profit and loss in the 2023 year. Our expenses in 2023 have generally remained similar to 2022, with key expenses during the year being marketing/promotional costs of \$573,545; employee benefits expense \$551,739; and administration costs of \$462,524, which include office expenses, ASO website and database, professional fees and travel and meeting expenses.

With a net operating deficit for the 2023 year of \$281,463 this loss can be attributed to both

- The purchase and implementation of new a CRM, the software system required to keep track of ASO membership and the activities of the Society – as the existing management system had proven to be unsatisfactory and unworkable for a number of years.
- An increase in staff wages including temporary staff, to cover contingencies and meet the increasing requirements of the Society.

Whilst an operational deficit was budgeted for, the ASO remains in a strong financial position to meet its current expenses as well as the cost of initiatives arising from the 2023 Strategic Plan. Additionally, the current 2024 Congress in Adelaide is expected to make a profit of well in excess of \$400,000, further supporting the financial base of the ASO.

In order to get greater service and transparency, whilst safeguarding investment returns, the Society changed its investments be managed by Ord Minnett during 2023. Early feedback on their reporting and investment strategies has vindicated this change.

Typically, ASO membership fees have increased in line with CPI. Despite the ASO running with a small operating deficit, I will propose at the AGM that the ASO fees should be raised this year in line with the CPI, due to the strong current financial position of ASO.

SDJA have again shown themselves to meet the Society's needs most ably, being timely and accurate with their reporting. I would encourage the membership to again endorse their selection as our Auditors.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Council for its continued support. In particular to ASO President, Andrew Toms and Secretary, Maurice Meade for their help during the year. Similarly, I would like to thank our CEO Kerstin Baas; Kate Harris; Juanita Ward-Harvey; Chanel Ellwood; Ian Denney; as well as Ian White, as ASO Company Secretary and Tom Milicevic, as Chair of the Finance Audit and Risk Committee, for their expertise, help and guidance during the year. It has been a pleasure to have met and worked with you all.

The success of the ASO depends entirely on the continuing dedication of the ASO Council and Committees as well as the additional future involvement of members not currently involved in the running of the ASO. I look forward to passing the responsibilities of ASO Federal Treasurer to Francis Wong and wish the incoming Executive and Council all the very best in the years to come.

Dr Simon Freezer
ASO Treasurer

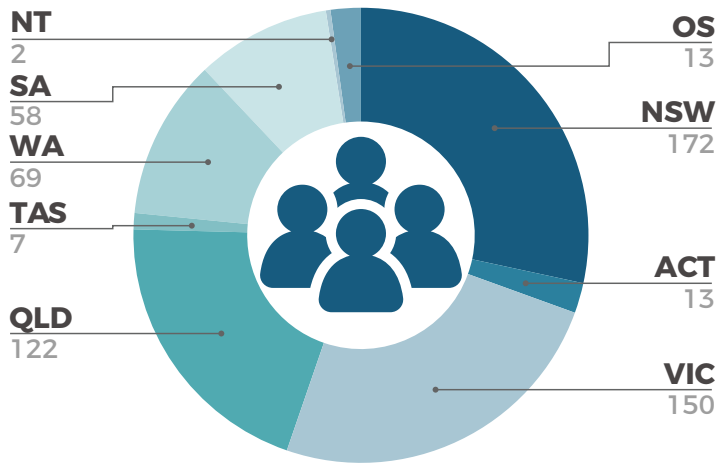


Membership Snapshot

**A look at our members
by the numbers.**



Members by State



Membership Committee Report

The Membership Advisory Sub-Committee reviewed the following applications in 2023:

Academic membership	0
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Student members	18
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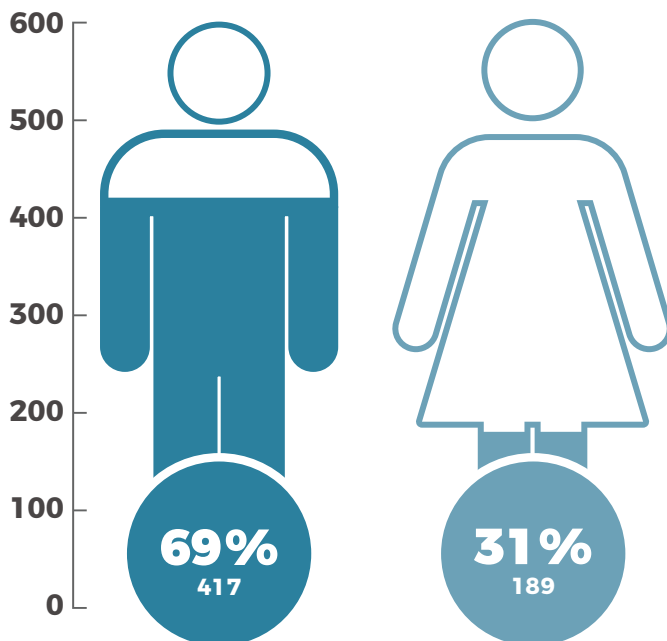
1st year out and 2nd year out	0
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Full Members	6
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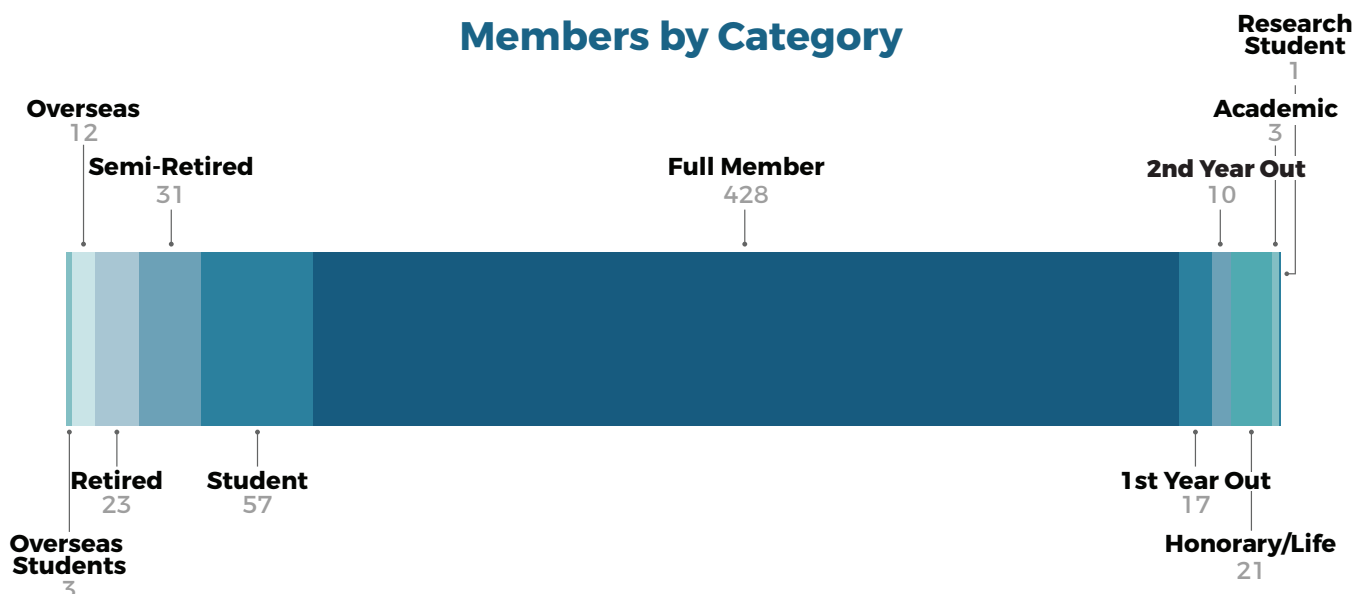
Overseas	0
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Total approved	24
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Members by Gender



Members by Category



Year in Review

A year of high activity, increased member engagement, and notable accomplishments. The PEP achieved significant milestones, reaching large audiences, and generating increased leads for members. The ASOFRE Foundation Meeting marked a return to face-to-face format and a sell-out event. Our Society looked to the future by embarking on the implementation of a new CRM and website for improved member support.



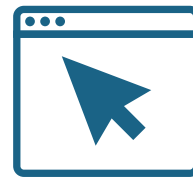
2023 Highlights



**22 pairs of mentors and mentees
completed the 2022-2023 Mentoring
Program for recent graduates**



**300+ members attended
the 2023 ASOFRE
Foundation Meeting**



**506,817 people visited
the Orthodontics
Australia (OA) consumer
Website**



**Our Public Education
Program (PEP) reached
1,618,979 people
through social media**



**14,542 People searched
for a specialist
orthodontist through
our Finder Tool**



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

Sleep and
Orthodontics
Gooneward
The University of Western Australia

The 2023 ASOFRE Foundation Meeting

The return to a face-to-face format for the first time in four years was an overwhelming success with a record of 300+ attendees, 15 co-located plenary sessions with ANZAOMS and 8 orthodontic lectures over 2 days. See page 15 for a full report.

Advocacy and Stakeholders

Dental Sector Working
Group and TGA

The ASO maintained its strong collaboration with the Dental Sector Working Group and the TGA to keep up to date with regulatory changes to custom-made medical devices. The ASO will continue to advocate on behalf of our members and the sector, and share key updates.

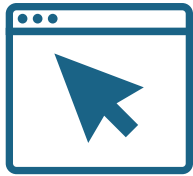


Digital Transformation: New ASO CRM and Member Website coming in 2024

The ASO commenced the implementation of a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system and a new ASO Member website in November 2023. This is one of the most significant projects for our Society in recent years.

The new system will allow us to streamline processes and better support ASO Members, committees and state branches. Most importantly it will improve the member experience from the moment you join the ASO and access information and content, to when you register for events. Stay tuned for updates on our progress in 2024.

2023 Public Education Program (PEP) Highlights



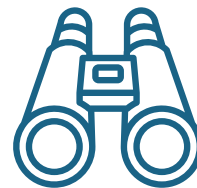
506,817 people visited
the Orthodontics
Australia (OA) consumer
website



Our educational videos
were watched 698,763
times on social media



We reached 1,618,979
people through social
media



14,542 people used the
Finder Tool to search for
a specialist orthodontist

Once the tooth fairy's in town,
it's time to book a visit to

The

Truth Fairy



checkup
before they
grow up

The ASO's Public Education Program (PEP) continues to mature and create impact, steadily educating the Australian public and driving leads for members.

In 2023, our focus was to continue building trust with our audiences by expanding the ways in which we educate – utilising more video and social placements. Two key benchmarks for success were remaining the top online resource for orthodontic information in Australia and increasing our ability to drive leads for practices.

A key indicator of the success of our educational content in 2023 was our impressive online search performance. We currently rank for over 10,000 relevant Google search keywords, with 1,180 in the top 3 positions.

With increased budget and attention on driving traffic to the Finder Tool, we also saw big improvements in the tool's performance. This included 64,122 visits to the Finder Tool resulting in 14,542 leads for members, an increase of 26% compared with 2022.

In addition to the above, the OA website underwent a comprehensive update to improve the user experience including new and revised content. The launch of the Year 2 Truth Fairy campaign helped engage and nurture new audience groups. With 66% of consumers saying video content is the most engaging type of social media content and studies finding videos get 1200% more shares, we increased our use of video content to ensure we were engaging our target audiences, which also helped us to increase our reach with less spend.

See page 25 for a full report.

At what age should your child see an orthodontist?



Support for Recent Graduates

The ASO welcomed to the profession the Class of 2023 and acknowledged their hard work and dedication. We got to know our 17 Graduands through the Welcome to the Profession [flyer](#).



2022-2024 Mentoring Program

The ASO's Mentoring Program for recent graduates was re-introduced in October 2022 and wrapped up at the end of 2023. We had a great response with 31 mentors and 22 mentees applying for the program, and 22 pairs matched based on personal preferences. The feedback from mentees and mentors halfway through the program was very positive.

"It has been a most rewarding experience being involved in the mentoring program. I am pleased that I was able to give support and suggestions to my mentee on a range of clinical and practice management issues. We communicated well and have established a good rapport."

Mentor feedback

"Great program. My mentor was very proactive in organising meetings with me and it is a great way to get perspective about the ortho world away from the University/Hospital setting."

Mentee feedback

The 2023-2024 program started in December 2023 and 12 pairs were matched and introduced by the end of the year. The program will run for 11 months until October 2024.

Recent Graduates Committee Report

Three postgraduates completed their training in South Australia in 2023 - Philip, Ting and Zi.

The South Australia recent graduates will be gathering for a dinner event in early 2024. Western Australia welcomed new members Simone, Soon and Jessica to the recent graduates group, bringing the total number of members to 11. A dinner in June was well attended and the next one was scheduled in December 2023 at Lotus restaurant.

Dr Shaun Goh

Chair, Recent Graduate Committee



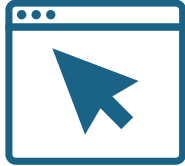
Mentor and Mentee catch up at the 2023 Foundation Meeting.
Drs Peter Miles, Simon Deall, (Mentors) Peter Tran and David Zhang (Mentees).

Public Education Program

The ASO's Public Education Program (PEP) has been an integral part of the ASO since 2017, driving education of the Australian public and ensuring families are well-informed when it comes to orthodontic treatment.



Public Education Program Report



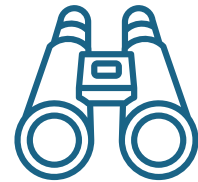
506,817 people visited
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We reached 1,618,979
people through social
media



Our educational videos
were watched 698,763
times on social media



14,542 people used the
Finder Tool to search for
a specialist orthodontist



378,119 people found
the OA website via
***organic search**



\$0.84 average cost per
click on social media
activity



The 2023 program focused on a range of digital initiatives that have been effective in reaching and engaging our key audiences, whilst moving away from activities that deliver less return on investment, such as proactive media relations.

Results Recap

With performance yet again outpacing previous years, we have seen a record number of visitors and leads coming through via the Public Education Program (PEP).

*Organic search remains the key driver of traffic to both the Orthodontics Australia (OA) website and the Finder Tool, accounting for at least 70% of our visitors. However, we have also seen strong lead generation off the back of our social and digital strategy – with paid search and display ads both helping to bring people back to the Finder Tool to find an orthodontist.

Ultimately, 2023 saw us reaching over 1.6 million Australians with our social media content, and our display ads were viewed 1.9 million times – keeping the OA website top of mind and re-enforcing our position as the leaders and experts in orthodontics.

Changes to the Orthodontics Australia (OA) Website

To maintain our top position and to better support our ability to effectively generate leads for members, the OA website underwent a significant upgrade to improve navigation and fact-finding. This included an

Thank you to the Members who have taken part of the 'Truth Fairy' campaign.

Photo Caption: from top to bottom Drs Linton Nash, Laura Barbagallo and Lachlan Crowther.

audience first approach to the landing page and fixed fact bars. In 2024 we will be rolling out a new 'request a consultation' function within the Finder Tool, which will complete the digital upgrade. Members will need to opt in to this, and confirm their details.

Changing Editorial Landscape

We have seen a reduction in earned media activity, and recently moved away from this model as part of our Always On program.

What we are seeing is a rise in the use of paid editorial partnerships across a number of publishing platforms. We explored a partnership with 9Honey as part of the Truth Fairy campaign, and while it reached over 10,000 people, we believe it should only be used as part of a wider campaign with a targeted message as it is a costly endeavor.

Despite moving to a reactive approach for media relations, we secured a number of placements this year including the Herald Sun, Go Healthier magazine (4) and Bloom Chemists online magazine, all of which were the result of requests from journalists. We continue to monitor the news cycle for relevant expert commentary opportunities and respond to reactive media enquiries.

Looking Ahead

While the ASO's five year strategy is still being developed, we are recommending an increased focus on engaging with our target audience groups beyond our digital channels, as well as the continuation of the PEP content marketing program, which is the key

driver of results year-on-year.

Sponsorships and partnerships will be prioritised as these are more likely to produce a better return on investment and a more controlled message, as well as a more direct route to our target audience across Australia.

The use of partnerships and direct contact with our audiences will support the third year of our Truth Fairy campaign, where we will focus on engagement and lead generation activities.

In addition, we want to build on the information we can offer to media and discerning consumers by expanding our access to data such as demographics of patients and different types of treatments being performed.

As always, I would like to thank the diligent members of the CIC Committee: Anél Blignaut and Doreen Ng from NSW, Marcus Tod and Desmond Ong from QLD, Pantea McKay, Theresia Sudjalim and Yana Itskovich from VIC, Benlee Yap from SA and Naomi Kohan from WA. Their unwavering commitment in handling the substantial workload has not only made my role significantly more manageable but has also fostered a seamless collaboration.

Dr Robbie Schwartz
Chair, CIC

**Organic search refers to the search results of a search engine that cannot be influenced by paid advertising and appear based on relevance to the user's search query.*

ASO Foundation for Research and Education





Since 1961, the Foundation for Research and Education (ASOFRE) has been dedicated to fostering scientific and clinical research to enhance evidence-based orthodontic care in Australia.

The 2023 Foundation Meeting was held on 19-20 May at the renowned Sydney Hilton. For the first time in the event's history, it was held as a co-located event with the Australian and New Zealand Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (ANZAOMS). The return to a face-to-face format for the first time in four years was an overwhelming success with a record number of attendees. Some of the highlights of the program included:

- **The Jan Taylor Lectureship and Keynote speaker Professor Steven J. Lindauer (USA)** - The lecture covered the psychosocial aspects of orthodontic treatment and orthognathic surgery, orthodontic mechanics of occlusal cant, open bite, and deep bite correction, and provided some tips on how to avoid orthodontic surprises.
 - **The co-located program with the ANZAOMS annual scientific meeting** - A successful blending of the orthodontics behind surgical cases that informed the delegates on the options and advances in orthognathic surgery that will benefit our patients.
 - **The ASOFRE Postgraduate Meeting and Lecture** delivered by the Jan Taylor Lecturer Professor Steven Lindauer, faculty staff and students from all Australasian orthodontic schools. Refer to page # for the full report.
-

**The ASOFRE would like to
thank the Meeting sponsors**

**Henry Schein, 3M, AB
Orthodontics, American
Orthodontics and
Denticare.**

**Their generous support has
enabled the Foundation to
continue paving the way
for future advancements on
orthodontic knowledge and
care.**



CONGRAT ASOFRE

The Awards were presented to
meritorious academic and



**Dr Kamel
Mohammed Saeed**
Elsdon Storey Award



Dr Mohammed Basheti
WFO Athanasios
E. Athanasiou Best
Orthodontic Master's
Thesis Award

TULATIONS TO OUR 2023 AWARD WINNERS

ed during the 2023 Foundation Meeting and recognised the most
d research achievements of Members during the prior year.



Dr Jonathan Lam
Elsdon Storey Special
Merit Award



Dr Daniel Lo Cao
ASO FRE Student Poster
Award



Dr Raoul Mascarenhas
AB Orthodontic
Fellowship



Dr Paul Lam
WFO Athanasios
E. Athanasiou Best
Orthodontic Master's
Thesis Award

2025 Foundation Meeting

The FRE Committee is proud to announce that the 2025 Foundation meeting will be held in **Hobart on 28-29 March 2025.**

More details will be shared shortly. In the meantime please mark these dates in your diary.

ASOFRE income and expenses in 2023

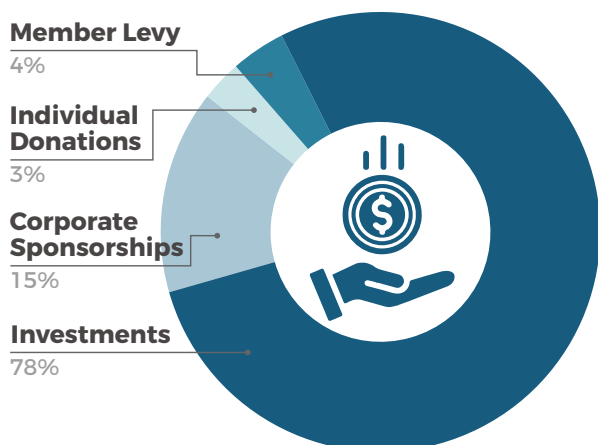
The ASOFRE's investment funds continue to be the main source of revenue, with levies and individual donations from members and/or patients on their behalf being another important income stream.

In 2023, members and public donors contributed over \$35K to the Foundation and the ASO extends its sincere gratitude to members for their continued support.

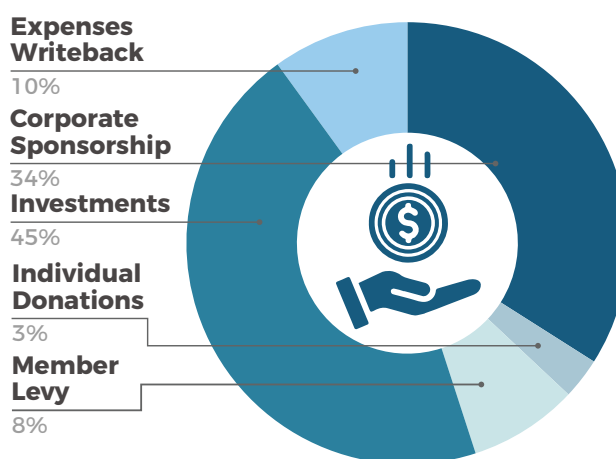
The ASO would also like to thank our sponsors, in particular Henry Schein, for their support. This year our corporate supporter Henry Schein contributed \$190,365.

During the year the ASOFRE supported orthodontic research through the funding of postgraduate student travel grants, University support & grants, and awards to a total of \$126,500.

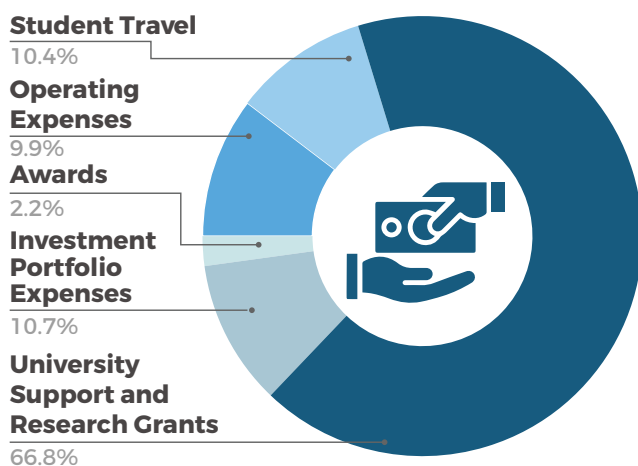
FRE income in 2023



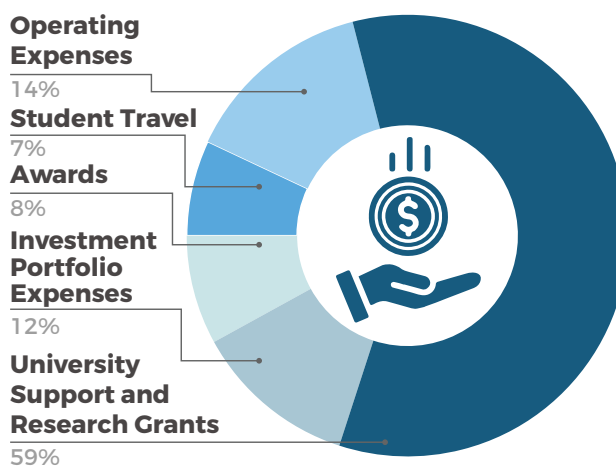
FRE income in 2022



FRE spending in 2023



FRE spending in 2022



I would like to thank my team for their exceptional contribution to the Foundation. Thank you to our Secretary Robert Mayne, Treasurer Alex Yusupov, and Committee members Chris Theodosi, Steven Naoum, Simon Toms, Derek Allan and David Madsen. I would like to express my gratitude to our previous Chair, Chris Theodosi for his guidance and leadership over the last four years.

I would also like to thank the ASO CEO, Kerstin Baas for her support throughout the year. She attends all of our meetings and her knowledge and wisdom are greatly appreciated. Thank you to Kate Harris, ASO Finance Manager for helping to keep our books in order, administering the day-to-day financials and supporting Alex in his role as Treasurer. Juanita Ward-Harvey, our Communications Manager is the link between us and our members, and we are very grateful for her invaluable assistance in preparing reports, communicating with our members, and keeping our website up to date.

The Committee also appreciates the support of the rest of the ASO team comprised of Ian Denney, Chanel Ellwood and Daisy Mellor. Kate Smith and the team at Waldron Smith have been our conference organisers for the Foundation Meeting and as usual Kate has done another fantastic job in putting the 2023 Foundation Meeting together.

I would like to extend my thanks to our President Andrew Toms and his Executive, and the ASO Federal Council for continuing to support us during the year.

And finally, I would like to thank all our members who contribute to the ASOFRE. We exist to support orthodontic education and research on behalf of the membership. We look forward to seeing all of you in Hobart in 2025.

Dr Annu Nangia
Chair, ASOFRE

Grateful Patient Program

Beyond the contributions from ASO members and corporate sponsorships, the Foundation has received vital support from grateful patients' generous donations. We extend our appreciation to ASO members who have actively encouraged their patients to participate in the Grateful Patient Donation Program, enabling them to make tax-deductible contributions to the Foundation.

A downloadable donation form is available on the ASO website [here](#).

2023 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Annabel Hoe
University of Queensland

Predictability of mesio-distal root tip of maxillary central incisors in adults treated with clear aligner therapy and its association with posttreatment open gingival embrasures.

Summary

Open gingival embrasures (OGEs) are the black triangle spaces commonly visible after correction of pre-treatment overlap of adjacent incisors. As these are unaesthetic complications of treatment, measures such as incorporating additional mesial root tip and interproximal reduction (IPR) have been shown to reduce the appearance of this space. Clear aligner therapy (CAT) is a recent innovation which has targeted adult patients. However, its effectiveness in performing tooth movements such as mesiodistal root tip of maxillary central incisors and its association with posttreatment OGEs require further investigation.

1. To investigate the association between posttreatment OGEs and mesiodistal root uprighting in maxillary central incisors.
2. To examine the relationship between posttreatment OGEs and pretreatment mesio-distal crown overlap of maxillary central incisors.
3. To evaluate the effectiveness of CAT in mesiodistal root uprighting of these incisors.

Materials and Method

In this retrospective cohort study, 174 maxillary central incisors from a sample of 87 de-identified patients aged 18 years and over were selected from the Australasian Aligner Research Database (AARD). The pretreatment, predicted and posttreatment digital models derived from stereolithography files (.STL files) of the upper jaws were analysed using Geomagic® Control XTM and ClinCheck® software (Align Technology®). Both linear and angular measurements of the maxillary central incisors were extrapolated and then compared between the pretreatment, predicted and posttreatment models.

Results and Conclusion

The results of the primary objectives of this study are awaiting final statistical analysis. The analysis of outcomes secondary to the main study is completed and included below.

Each millimeter increase in incisor overlap increases the probability of a posttreatment OGE by 2.03 times ($p < 0.05$). Optimised extrusion and horizontal bevel attachments on the tooth 21 showed a 1.5 to 1.8 degree increase in the clinically achieved mesiodistal root tip for both 11 and 21, compared to no attachments ($p < 0.05$). Compared to one-weekly wear, the two-weekly wear regime in CAT increases the probability of a posttreatment OGE by 1.16 times ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions will be determined upon complete statistical analysis of the data.



Dr James Chan
University of Western
Australia

The impact and influence of orthodontic movement of teeth on gingival tissue thickness and recession in individuals with different biotypes

treated in extraction and non-extraction treatment.

Summary

Gingival tissues have been shown to respond differently to orthodontic teeth movements. Determining an individual's gingival biotype is critical in treatment planning due to the tissue's response to orthodontic movements. Thinner gingival biotypes may be more predisposed to gingival recession, thickness changes or bony dehiscence's from dentoalveolar movements such as proclination, retroclination or even expansion. The individual's periodontal condition and biotype is an important consideration in the extraction/non extraction treatment decision that can impact the gingival soft tissue boundaries. This study investigates if orthodontic movement of teeth has any impact on gingival thickness and gingival recession in patients with various gingival biotypes who have had extraction or non- extraction treatment with the use of ultrasound and periodontal probing techniques. The aims of this study are to:

1. To determine if there are any associations with orthodontic movement of teeth- proclination/retroclination and changes in gingival thickness or recession in individuals with different biotypes.
2. To determine any associations with extraction vs non- extraction treatment with changes in gingival thickness or recession.

The resulting outcomes will hope to help clinicians be more informed about the prevalences and risk factors that may lead to gingival changes post orthodontic treatment.

Materials and Method

Data was collected from participants post orthodontic treatment from the Oral Health Centre of the University of Western Australia (OHCWA). Exclusion criteria will include participants that have had orthognathic surgery, have periodontitis (that is, attachment loss of ≥ 4 mm), moderate to severe gingivitis, decay, any restorations of the maxillary and mandibular anterior teeth, are pregnant, smokers, are taking or have had a history of taking any medications that are known to cause gingival enlargement will be excluded from this study. Groups of participants will be subdivided from those who had Class I, Class II and Class III extraction and non-extraction treatments. Six teeth in the maxillary arch and mandibular arch (canine to canine) were measured. Ultrasound has been shown to be an effective tool in assessing gingival tissue thickness. Ultrasonographic images were taken by a single examiner to measure the labial thickness of the gingiva at the level of the alveolar crest on a bucco-lingual cross section of enamel, gingival and crest of the alveolar bone. Gingival Biotype was identified by one examiner with the use of a Colorvue Biotype probes corresponding to "thin, medium and thick" biotypes were inserted into the gingival sulcus with light pressure. A standard periodontal probe was used to measure gingival recession and the width of the attached keratinized gingiva. The maxillary and mandibular incisor inclinations and positions will be measured and assessed using

Results and Conclusion

From the above data points, the study aims to determine any associations of orthodontic teeth movement and changes in gingival thickness and recession in individuals with different biotypes. The study also aims to find any correlations with individuals who have had extraction or non-extraction treatment and gingival thickness and recession. Data collection and statistical analysis is currently ongoing and hopes that the resulting outcomes will help clinicians be more informed about the impacts of orthodontic movement of teeth and the limitations of soft tissue. Conclusions will be determined upon complete statistical analysis of the data.



Luci Wong
University of Otago

*Beyond the Cleft Smile:
Exploring Dynamic
Smile Characteristics
and their Relationship
with Clinical,
Biomechanical, and
Psychosocial Factors.*

Summary

This multi-center observational study explored the impact of unilateral cleft lip conditions on the features of smiles and their relationship with a clinical outcome, biomechanical properties of lips, and psychosocial factors.

Materials and Method

Adolescents and adults (N=42) were recruited from around New Zealand and formed two study groups: a unilateral cleft lip group (N=21) and a non-cleft control group (N=21) matched for age, gender, and ethnicity. All study participants watched an amusing video while their facial expressions were recorded. Smile episodes were automatically detected via software to measure six variables: frequency of smiles, mean duration of smiles, relative smile time percentage, smile genuineness, smile intensity, and tooth show. The cleft clinical outcome was assessed using the Asher-McDade (AM) nasolabial score based on facial photographs. Biomechanical properties of the perioral muscles and cleft

scar were measured using myotonometry. Smile Esthetics-related Quality of Life (SERQoL), Orofacial Esthetics Scale (OES), and personality (IPIP-NEO-60) questionnaires were assessed in all study participants.

Results

The features of smiles and personality traits did not differ between the two study groups. Participants in the cleft group exhibited higher stiffness (+44.2%; Cohen's $d = 1.6$) and tone (+22.6%; Cohen's $d = 1.9$) at the cleft site, along with increased decrement (inverse of elasticity; +8.5%; Cohen's $d = 0.8$) at the adjacent perioral site. AM scores and decrement of the cleft scar were both negatively correlated with duration of smiles ($R = -0.52$ and $R = -0.44$; $p < 0.05$) and relative smile time percentage ($R = -0.50$ and $R = -0.49$; $p < 0.05$). Participants in the cleft group had lower scores for the OES as well as higher impacts in the SERQoL in the domains of social contacts and dental self-confidence.

Conclusions

Individuals who have completed treatment for cleft lip exhibit similar smile behaviour as their cleft-free peers - at least in non-social settings. Cleft clinical outcomes and biomechanical properties of lips are associated with propensity to smile. Cleft conditions negatively impact smile-related quality of life, as well as an individual's perception of their facial appearance in the long term.



Dr Maxim Milosevic
University of Sydney

The effectiveness of Teledentistry & Artificial Intelligence in the orthodontic triaging of Australian children, adolescents and adults: a randomised controlled trial.

Summary

Access to public orthodontic care in Australia is limited by financial, geographical and resource barriers. Long wait-lists lead to delays which can preclude some types of treatment and turn simple interceptive cases into complex malocclusions. Orthodontic triaging is necessary to identify patients with high treatment needs and those for whom treatment timing is critical. While straightforward, triaging represents a time and resource burden for patients and the public health system. While teleorthodontics and artificial intelligence (TAI) technologies have been used in treatment monitoring, their usage in triaging is relatively nascent.

1. To compare the validity of a novel TAI method with face-to-face (F2F) orthodontic triaging.

This study is being conducted under the guidance of principal investigator Dr Oyku Dalci with proceeds from “The Pitch”, a NSW Health grant awarded to projects which pursue innovation in patient care and experience. A conjoint study by fellow registrar Dr Tina Sangha is concurrently evaluating the use of DM in full fixed appliance treatment monitoring.

Materials and Method

A crossover randomised controlled trial (RCT) design was employed. Patients aged 7 to 45 on the NSW orthodontic triaging waitlist with access to a smartphone and email address were randomised into two crossover groups: Group 1 (F2F triaging first) and group 2 (TAI triaging first). Teleorthodontic triaging comprised submission of intra-oral photos using Dental Monitoring (DM), extra-oral photos, patient history survey and review of the digitised referral letter. Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need (IOTN) was assigned by one of two investigators (Dr Maxim Milosevic & Dr Tina Sangha) for each participant using both the TAI and F2F method. Gingival health, oral hygiene status and patient satisfaction were measured. Inter-observer reliability for F2F and TAI triaging was calculated based on repeated measurements for a subset of participants. IOTN and secondary outcome measure agreement was compared for the two triaging methods. As of December 2023, 180 participants were triaged face-to-face, 120 participants were triaged using TAI and 110 participants completed both methods.

Results and Conclusion

Data collection is ongoing, with an estimated sample size of 200 participants and expected completion in Q1 2024. Validation of a novel TAI triaging method using DM may help to alleviate access barriers to public orthodontic care with the potential to reduce long wait lists. The findings will provide guidance on the implementation of TAI in orthodontic triaging.



Zi Wei Lim
University of Adelaide

The predictability of maxillary curve of Wilson levelling with the Invisalign® appliance.

Summary

The most widely adopted clear aligner system in the world is Invisalign® (Align Technology®). Utilizing the Invisalign® appliance entails employing a virtual treatment planning software, ClinCheck®, to enable communication between clinicians and Align Technology®. Assessing the effectiveness of tooth movements can be achieved through three-dimensional superimposition techniques, which seek to compare the pre-treatment intraoral scan, the predicted ClinCheck® outcome, and a scan taken after the initial series of aligners.

A flatter curve of Wilson (COW) has been suggested to be beneficial in achieving maximum intercuspation and avoiding balancing interferences in occlusion.

Knowledge of these findings can offer insights into the management of both the transverse and vertical issues during aligner treatment, such as loss of occlusal contacts.

To date, no studies have investigated Invisalign's® efficacy for levelling the maxillary COW. This study aimed to investigate the accuracy and characteristics of maxillary COW levelling in comparison to the digital treatment prediction.

Materials and Method

A retrospective analysis was conducted on a database of adult subjects treated with the Invisalign® appliance between 2013 and 2019. Patients received non-extraction treatment in the maxillary arch and presented with either Angle Class I or II malocclusions. They were prescribed a minimum of 14 aligners without the use of bite ramps or intermaxillary elastics. Initial, predicted, and actual outcomes were analysed with Geomagic® Control XTM software (3D systems, North Carolina, USA; Version 2017.0.3).

Results

All cases that met the selection criteria were included, totaling 53. The maxillary COW appeared to become more pronounced by a mean of 1.15mm despite planned mean levelling of 0.25mm. More buccal crown tip tended to occur than planned which ranged from a mean of 0.1mm - 0.29mm.

Conclusions

The average maxillary COW increased despite prescribed levelling. There appeared to be an unintended buccal crown tip regardless of planned crown inclination. Except for second molars, arch width expansion was under expressed. The second molars overexpressed arch expansion by almost four times which was primarily due to unintended buccal crown tip.

TECHNIQUE + TECHNOLOGY

29th
Australian
Orthodontic
Congress

Adelaide
13-17 March
2024

Dates

The 29th Australian Orthodontic Congress will be held Wednesday 13 - Sunday 17 March 2024.

Venue

Our Congress will be held in the recently revamped Adelaide Convention Centre. The Adelaide Convention Centre is positioned at the heart of Adelaide's Riverbank Precinct which is in the midst of a multi-billion dollar rejuvenation.

Theme

The theme for the 29th ASO Congress is 'Technique and Technology'. We have a mixture of international and Australian speakers that will fit this theme.

Programme

To be run as a single stream for doctors and a single stream for auxiliaries with two combined lectures.

Wed 13	Pre-Congress Courses
Thu 14	Doctor lectures
Fri 15	Doctor and Auxiliary lectures
Sat 16	Doctor and Auxiliary lectures
Sun 17	Post-Congress Courses

Speakers

The international speakers are: Dr Willy Dayan, Prof Padhraig Fleming, Dr Simon Graf, Dr Mike Mayhew, Dr Juan Carlos Perez Varela and Dr Julia von Bremen.

The local speakers are: Dr Andre Bendyk, Prof Paolo Cattaneo, Dr Andrew Cheng, Prof Marie Cornelis, Annie Harvey, Mark Mitchell, Dr Mark Moore, A/Prof Geraldine Moses, Ellen Murray and Sarah Tirrell, Dr Kelly Oliver, Dr Harry Perkins, Bernard Salt, Dr Noor Eldin Tarraf, Dr Vicki Vlaskalic, Dr Tony Weir and Dr Annalene Weston.

Trade

The Adelaide Convention Centre has a huge area for the trade, which is well located near the Plenary.

Social Events

Wed 13	President's Dinner at the Sol Rooftop, SkyCity Adelaide
Thu 14	President's Reception and Stanley Wilkinson Oration at the Adelaide Convention Centre
Fri 15	Party Night at The Drive
Sat 16	Gala Dinner at the SkyCity Adelaide Ballroom
Sun 17	Post-Congress Courses

Local Organising Committee

Andrew Toms	President, ASO 2024
Melinda Barva	Congress Convenor
Craig Dreyer	Chair, Scientific Programme
Maurice Meade	Deputy Chair, Scientific Programme
Richard Salmon	Chair, Auxiliary Programme
Simon Freezer	Sponsorship and Industry Exhibition
Andrew Tindall	Treasurer
Con Laparidis	Chair, Social Programme
Lara Malcolm	Professional Congress Organiser

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you in Adelaide.

Dr Melinda Barva
Chair and Convenor, 29th Australian Orthodontic Congress

30th Australian Orthodontic Congress

The 30th Australian Orthodontic Congress is set to take place from 20-24 May 2026, in the vibrant city of Melbourne. Make sure to mark your diaries now, as this promises to be an extraordinary event that you won't want to miss.

Our Scientific Committee, led by Professor Marie Cornelis and Associate Professor Paolo Cattaneo, has been diligently curating an impressive line-up of international speakers. Whilst we are keeping some details under wraps during this early planning stage, rest assured that our speakers are globally recognised and highly sought after.

The Auxiliary program, coordinated by Jim Bokas and Andrew Pepicelli, is shaping up to be a valuable resource for educating your staff and enhancing the overall value they bring to your practices.

Melbourne's diverse venues provides the perfect backdrop for our social events, and Katherine Diaz and Adam Wallace are spearheading an exciting social program. Early indicators suggest that it will be nothing short of amazing.

Stay tuned for more updates as we unveil more details. In the meantime, be sure to lock in the dates in your calendars. This is an event you won't want to miss!

Dr Chris Theodosi
Chair, 30th Australian Orthodontic Congress







Australian Orthodontic Board (AOB)

AOB certification postnominals continue to signify a commitment to specialist orthodontic education, excellence and review. We welcome our recently graduated colleagues as AOB certified members and look forward to supporting them and sharing their growth on their journey as a specialist.

Several improvements have been made to the AOB process with all the revised forms and procedures available and easily accessible for members on the ASO website.

Summary of updates & changes to AOB certification

- Postgraduate students are now exempt from the AOB enrolment fee.
- The post-nominal **AOB Cert** is available for member-only use after gaining certification. It must be forfeited once AOB membership has lapsed and is not renewed within 4 calendar months.
- Prospective clinical certification is valid for 7 years
 - a. Emphasis is on an understanding of the case rather than ideal finishing.
 - b. Supporting articles (2-10 citations) of the assessment, plan or intervention as part of the AOB emphasis on evidence-based practice.
 - c. Digital records are required with file sizes less than 5MB.

- Resubmission time following clinical certification has been increased to 7 years.
- Once clinical certification has been completed twice, ongoing certification is awarded following submission of the AOB Professional Development Logbook, every 7 years.
- Format of the Professional logbook has been modified to align with AHPRA CPD requirements. CPD points are provided for:
 - a. Stage 1 certification: 10 hours
 - b. Stage 2 certification: 15 hours
 - c. Assessors: 5 hours for 2 cases

Opportunities & Thanks

- We have some vacancies for AOB positions and we encourage members to volunteer to fill these roles.
- We welcome Arun Shailendran and Rachel Harvey who recently join the AOB as the QLD and WA University liaison persons.
- Thanks to all members that participate in the assessment and peer-review feedback process.
- Sincere thanks to Tony Collett for his dedication in revising and updating the AOB application process, systems and forms

Drs Carolyn Ng (Chair) and Tony Collett
AOB Committee

Australasian Orthodontic Journal (AOJ)

The AOJ is progressing nicely. By the end of 2023, it is expected that 38 articles will be published which is equivalent to last year. The articles are in the publishing system and in the process of copyediting and typesetting. There are an additional 12 papers currently being reviewed and the continuing problem is the willingness of reviewers to commit.

On average, the Journal receives manuscripts at the rate of 3-4 per week. Not all are sent out for review and there is an overall rejection rate of about 80% which incorporates those returned after assessment.

Sciendo have offered assistance to achieve listing on PubMed. Their help comes at a substantial cost which does not necessarily mean success. The financial outlay requires executive consideration.

The AOJ archive back to 2000 has been delivered to Sciendo. The editor intends to have the archive delivered back to 1967 by the end of the year so that all 1700+ articles are available.

The publishing contract with Sciendo has been renewed. There has been an increase in costs which I understand is tolerable and in line with the overall cost of delivering services.

Prof Craig Dreyer
Editor, AOJ



Constitution & Policy Committee

Governance standards in the Not-for-Profit space are rapidly evolving and those standards to which the ASO is administered by its Council, Committees and staff is now expected to be no less robust than the governance of big corporations. Thus, legal advice is paramount to ensure our Society has a robust and relevant Constitution to achieve and maintain appropriateness

The ASO structure includes a parent Federal body incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory and regulated under the *Associations Act, 1991* and individual State Branches, all duly incorporated under their relevant State Associations legislation. Our federated model, which has evolved over decades, recognises the Federal Body as the governing entity, and except where specific state legislation dictates otherwise, each State Branch remains subject to the Federal Constitution.

In its infancy, the ASO existed as a small single body, answerable to the Australian Dental Association (ADA) and whose meetings were attached to those of the ADA. As numbers grew, and orthodontic education expanded, it became prudent to create state branches to satisfy a need to look after state affairs, particularly given the existence of State Dental Acts and Dental Boards. In their infancy, the state branches organised local meetings for camaraderie and education. With the creation of the NSW Orthodontic Trust, the need to incorporate became a legal necessity, and other states followed suit. We now have six ASO entities with six individual constitutions that have proved difficult to align and keep aligned. This leaves the ASO vulnerable to legal interpretation and a desire by Federal Council to bring our constitutions into alignment.

Federal council tasked the CAP Committee to review our existing Constitution considering:

1. A perception that the Constitution would benefit from a comprehensive legal review to provide a modern, relevant document;
2. A desire to ensure that only sufficiently worthy persons are admitted and/or retained as members;
3. The desirability for applicants who may not satisfy 'Australian Resident' status to attain membership under certain conditions;
4. A perceived need to allow particular academic members more rights of membership;
5. A perceived need to strengthen the ASO's ability to discipline, sanction or dismiss a member;
6. A perceived need to adjust membership conditions during special circumstances.



Further, the vexed question of how to bring our State Constitutions into line with that of the Federal Body was also raised with the agreement this could be scoped with legal advice in the first instance. The resulting Minter Ellison advice noted an extremely complex ASO membership structure which would contribute to an unacceptable high cost to align constitutions. Thus, Council re-directed its request to consider simplifying the membership criteria for the ASO as a first step.

The CAP committee has drafted four classes of membership with sub-classes, namely;

1. Ordinary Member

- A. Recent Graduate, 1st year out
- B. Recent Graduate, 2nd year out
- C. Semi-Retired Ordinary Member
- D. Retired Ordinary Member
- E. Academic Ordinary Member
- F. Absentee Ordinary Member

2. Honorary Life Member

3. Student Member

- A. Research Student Member

4. Associate Member

- A. Academic Member
- B. Honorary Member
- C. Non-voting Member
- D. Overseas Member
- E. Corresponding Member

It is anticipated the four main categories will be described in the constitution while the sub-classes are to be described in the Society's By-laws. This greatly simplifies the Constitution and the alignment of each State Constitution. By-Laws can be modified by Council from time to time without the need for Special Resolutions at a General or Annual General Meeting for both Federal and all State Branches. This prevents the awkward situation where Constitutions become rapidly asynchronous.

Importantly, *The Act* protects members' right to scrutinise and question By-Laws as with all aspects of the Society's governance.

Dr Sam Whittle

Chair, Constitution and Policy Committee



Education Committee

The ASOFRE Postgraduate Meeting was held two days prior to the Foundation Meeting on 17-18 May, 2023. The Jan Taylor Travelling Lectureship and Keynote speaker was Steven J. Lindauer, who is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Orthodontics at Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr Lindauer presented three outstanding lectures that were well received by all attendees.

We are appreciative of all our sponsors who jointly contributed to the success of the Postgraduate Meeting. 3M who coordinated the attendee registration, provided the catering, and speaker support. American Orthodontics (AO) sponsored a formal dinner with thanks going to Ms Terri Green and her team.

The 2023 meeting saw the return of a teambuilding activity supported by Denticare in which the group participated in a digitally coordinate “Amazing Race” activity through Hyde Park and the Sydney CBD.

The ASOFRE supported an evening cocktail function on the last evening to meet and greet the ASOFRE Committee members and

the members of the ASO Federal Council led by President Dr Andrew Toms. This was generously funded by Andrew Binns from AB Orthodontics.

The Education Committee resolved the following regarding the Australian Dental Council (ADC) DClintDent (Orthodontics) accreditation process:

1. All Australian and New Zealand orthodontic programs have agreed that face-to-face attendance of assessors to the respective Universities is the best system to achieve the objective of the ADC accreditation process.
2. For each future ADC Accreditation of the respective DClintDent (Orthodontic) programs there will be one (1) ADC nominated assessor – funded by the ADC.
3. For each future ADC Accreditation of the respective DClintDent (Orthodontic) programs there will be one (1) ASO nominated assessor – funded by ASO who will then provide a written report to the Education Committee Chairman, which will in turn be forwarded to ASO Federal Council.



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4. It is the preference of the Education Committee that the ASO nominated assessor attend one (1) day before and/or one day after the ADC assessment schedule to complete a more detailed ASO evaluation of the respective DClinDent (Orthodontics) program(s).

The Education Committee has established the ASO Education Sub-committee to review the Orthodontic Curriculum in Dental Schools. Professor Marie Cornelis Chair of the Sub-committee, will report back to ASO Federal Council through the ASO Education Committee. The general objective of this Sub-committee will be to work towards standardisation of the curriculum for Australian and New Zealand Dental students.

Many kilometres have been travelled by the Orthodontic Faculty on the Faculty rotations. The Orthodontic Faculty rotations will continue into the foreseeable future as the rotations have proven to be a great way to pass on more orthodontic knowledge and allows the Faculties to compare what is happening elsewhere in Australia and New Zealand.

ASO (AOC) sponsored Postgraduate meeting

Day, AOC Adelaide “A Day with Padhraig Fleming”, organised by Associate Professor Maurice Meade (Adelaide University) is slated for the day immediately preceding the main AOC program.

The 2025 Postgraduate Symposium is under development with possible changes in the manner of sponsorship. The ASOFRE will continue to sponsor the Postgraduate Symposium, by awarding the Jan Taylor Travelling Lectureship to a visiting overseas lecturer, when aligned with the ASOFRE Foundation Meeting. The Education Committee is investigating the available options for sponsorship of the Postgraduate Symposium and the complementary events.

As an alumnus of a Postgraduate Orthodontic program, please remember to occasionally just drop a line to your educators and classmates. The contributions of the orthodontic educators in Australia and New Zealand are so much more than just being teachers and mentors. Most of us have created life-long friendships from those arduous years we spent in our graduate orthodontic programs.

A/Prof Mike Razza
Chair, Education Committee



Finance Audit and Risk

Firstly, I would like to thank the ASO Federal Council for entrusting me with the role of Chairman of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (FAR) for the 2023 year. The role of the FAR is to assist Federal Council to discharge its responsibilities in relation to oversight of the integrity and effectiveness of the ASO's financial reporting, risk & governance management, internal controls, and external audit.

During 2022, the FAR examined and reviewed critical areas of the ASO's operations, risk profile and financial reporting which were actioned during 2023.

Some key deliverables include:

- Appointment of external Company Secretary to strengthen the ASO's governance, ensure compliance and assist in risk management;
- Review of Financial Planners: During the year the FAR reviewed and benchmarked the performance and service offering of our Financial Planners. After the comprehensive review, it was determined to appoint new Financial Planners to assist the Council in its role in managing member funds. An investment workshop was held with key stakeholders including Federal Council to establish the risk appetite and develop an investment strategy and policy in line with the ASO's and ASOFRE's overall objectives. This was of significant benefit and ensures the ASO receives value for money.
- Review of committee oversight
- Progressed with efforts to enhance ASO's governance, including:
 - Having progressed with the drafting of an overarching ASO governance charter which outlines the overall governance framework across all ASO operations. This charter will be signed off shortly and will be disclosed on the ASO website;
 - Approved the creation of a risk framework and a compliance framework. These are two important framework pillars are to ensure risk and compliance management remain well managed across the ASO; and
 - Implemented a statement of compliance which is submitted to each Federal Council meeting to give the Council Members comfort that all compliance matters are being addressed and are up to date.
- Supporting management team with addressing key person risk and project kick-off for the new CRM, which will improve interactions with members, financial integrity and quality of reporting
- Continued review of key suppliers to ensure Return on Investment

The financial statements present a true and fair view of the ASO and we appreciate the work of our auditors SDJA in providing an effective and efficient audit. There remains much to do, but given the challenges faced this year it has been a positive year. Next year, will see a major change behind the scenes with the major IT project rollout planned for 2024. This new system will enable efficiencies to be gained through a coordinated and streamlined approach with our members and external parties, including a website revamp.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Kerstin Baas and Kate Harris for their diligence, execution and assistance provided to the FAR to discharge our responsibilities. In addition, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of ASO Treasurer Dr Simon Freezer and the members of the committee, Drs Francis Wong, Sam Whittle and Kerry Shooter.

Tom Milicevic

Chair, Finance Audit & Risk Committee



**Give a Smile
(GAS)**



The rising cost of living continues to put many Australians under financial strain, making it impossible for many to afford orthodontic care. Give a Smile (GAS) continues to bring a smile to the faces of children in lower income families for whom orthodontic treatment would normally be out of reach.

In March 2023, a team from Southeast Orthodontics represented GAS at the 2023 Run for the Kids fun run to support the Royal Children's Hospital fundraiser and to create awareness about GAS. The run attracted close to 20,000 participants and raised \$1M to contribute to hospital projects, research and technology.

GAS welcomes members to join our Run for the Kids team in 2024 - as part of the team you are provided with running shirts, caps and drink bottles.

For more information and or to express your interest email **support@aso.org.au**

The return to in-person events has been a relief for all involved in the profession. GAS will be one of the exhibitors at the 29th Australian Orthodontic Congress to be held in Adelaide on 13-17 March, 2024. Don't forget to drop by our stall to ask any questions you might have, sign-up, or simply say hello. Saturday 16 March will be "Give a Smile T-shirt Day" with an associated competition and prizes to be announced!

Thank you to all GAS Orthodontists around the country, your generous hard work is inspirational. A special thank you to all our Give a Smile volunteers who keep the cause growing every year!

Dr Jonathan Rooke
Chair, Give a Smile



Join Give a Smile by visiting
bit.ly/joingivesmile
or scan the QR Code



Awards



Honorary Life Members

1961	W Stanley Wilkinson	2005	R G Cook AM
1964	A Thornton Taylor	2006	G R Dickinson
1966	Sir K T Adamson CMG	2008	B I Watson AM RFD
1966	P R Begg AO	2009	E C Crawford AM
1966	B L Rosenstengel	2009	R J Olive AM RFD
1972	V P Webb	2011	M Harkness
1974	J B Moffatt	2012	J R Owen AM
1974	R Y Norton OBE	2013	C C Twelftree OAM
1989	B Mollenhauer	2014	F S Fryer OAM
1993	G I Brown	2014	W Sampson AM
1993	L M Smart AM	2015	D J Fuller
1993	M R Sims AO	2015	M S Goonewardene
1995	J F Reading	2016	H D McLean AM
1997	R F H Rickleman	2016	S R Langford
1998	W J Mackie	2017	J M Razza
2000	T J Freer AM	2021	D I Vickers
2000	R G Henry OAM	2021	A M Shields
2002	B W Lee	2021	C W Dreyer
2003	B D Bowden	2022	J E Coolican AM
2004	J K Hawkins AM RFD	2023	A R Collett
2004	B W Phillips	2023	P J Hannan
2004	D T Taylor OAM		

Distinguished Service Award

1989	G I Brown	2011	D I Vickers
1989	G D Kirkness	2012	J Cameron
1989	B Mollenhauer	2012	A R Collett
1989	A G Parker OAM	2013	J L Curtain
1989	R G Henry OAM	2013	D J O'Donoghue
1989	J F Reading	2014	G J Moore
1989	R F H Rickleman	2014	H Wasilewsky
2003	V C West AM	2015	J M Razza
2005	R H Hay	2015	A M Shields
2005	A G Parker OAM	2015	P D Hanrahan
2008	M A Darendeliler	2016	R T James
2008	M S Goonewardene	2016	C W Dreyer
2008	W J Sampson AM	2017	J E Coolican AM
2008	M G Woods	2018	E Peel
2009	D J Fuller	2018	C K Chan
2009	P J Hannan	2021	M L Reichstein
2010	A J Amitage	2022	C J Nelson
2010	D T Taylor OAM	2022	P M Schneider
		2023	S Greenway

Meritorious Service Award

1996	D R Hellstrom	2012	J H Chapman
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Meritorious Service Award (Non-Members)

2012	Dr Charles Burstone
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2012	Dr Lyle Johnstone Jr.
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2012	Dr Bill Proffit
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2013	Mrs Liz Swaby
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2015	Mrs Dee Sansom
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2022	Ms M Cutler
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Awards 2023

Nominations for the 2023 ASO awards were considered by the Committee at its 19 March, 2023 and 30 April, 2023 teleconference meeting to consider amongst other things the finalisation of the 2023 Awards.

The Committee also proposes and provides references for nominations for national honours to the Honours Secretariat in Canberra.

Dr F Shane Fryer

Chair, Awards Committee



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