

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF  
ORTHODONTISTS

# ANNUAL REPORT



# 2024



## **Acknowledgment of Country**

ASO acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connections to land, waters, and community. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

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## ABOUT US

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

## **The ASO's 2024-2027 strategic priorities are:**

**Providing Members with ongoing support and resources so they can thrive throughout their careers**

**Advocacy and maintaining strong, collaborative relationships within the dental sector**

**Supporting research and continuing education in orthodontics**

**Public education about evidence based orthodontic treatment and specialist practitioners providing orthodontic care**

**Maintaining a strong, effective and efficient organisation, with best practice governance**

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the numerous Members who generously dedicate their time to actively contribute to the ASO, and who support our activities by serving on committees and state branches. Your contributions are truly appreciated and invaluable to the success of our Society. Thank you for all that you do.

# President Report



In the past 12 months, the ASO has made grand strides forward and continued to strive for improved governance and operations. We began 2024 with the highly successful Adelaide Congress, the first face-to-face Congress in 6 years! With the past several years tempered by the global response to COVID-19, it was a pleasure to see many interstate colleagues and listen to international and domestic academics. Adelaide's Congress was well attended with 950 delegates and 38 trade exhibitors. The local organising Committee headed by Dr Melinda Barva are to be commended.

The ASO released our 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, which has evolved into a formalised structure with yearly plans in five key areas and matched KPIs. Our focus will be on areas of:

- Member support and engagement;
- Stakeholders and advocacy;
- Research and education;
- Community awareness and education; and
- Strong, effective and efficient organisation.

To this end, the implementation of the new CRM and website in April 2024 has proven to be a sound decision with time-saving aspects to automated reporting and particularly helpful during our first membership renewal process with the new system.

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Our governance has been strengthened with guidance from our CEO and Company Secretary.

Following through with our audit process, it was prudent to review our Public Education Program (PEP) and its provider. After an objective tender process

with support from a digital marketing consultant, the ASO has confirmed a partnership with a new creative digital agency, Ntegrity. As technology is universal in all aspects of patient engagement, education and provision of care, the ASO is continuing to place itself as the expert voice in our field. We are mindful of fiscal responsibility and have adjusted our budget to reflect the ASO's current needs. The CIC Committee, led by Dr Robbie Schwartz, along with the ASO HQ, has worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth transition with our new provider without loss of content and momentum.

One of the key focus areas for the ASO has been advocacy. We participated in multiple workshops with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) regarding proposed changes to the regulation of medical devices. The ASO has ensured the TGA is better informed about the practical implications of their regulations. The ASO's position is orthodontic appliances are individually tailored to the patient and do not require the granular review and registration of these appliances if they are manufactured using ARTG listed components or materials. Watch this space as we continue to advocate for the ASO with TGA regarding this matter.

Within the dental sector, we have provided reviews of many ADA policies and consultations on Infection Prevention and Control guidelines.

We continue to represent the ASO at the ADA Specialist Working group that provided advice on item numbers for the schedule and glossary, specialist registration standards and outlined future needs for our profession. We provided support to our colleagues at ANZAOMS regarding protection of the title 'surgeon' for medically trained professionals. The ASO remains committed to developing and deepening relationships with our dental community.

This year, the ASO Council has approved more financial support than ever for our orthodontic academics in the form of a travel and expense bursary to further our presence on the international stage of orthodontic education. Our post-graduates also benefit from this generous support provided by the ASOFRE which includes free registration to the ASO Foundation and Congress meetings. The need for multiple university degrees to achieve specialty registration coupled with high university fees and cost of living pressure has culminated in our post-graduate students experiencing the most challenging financial time of their careers compared with previous cohorts. My deep thanks to Dr Annu Nangia and the ASOFRE Committee for supporting and implementing this new directive.

At the time of writing, our ASOFRE Foundation Meeting in Hobart is imminent and set to be a success after years of dedicated work from the Committee and Lara Malcolm from The Meeting People. As this is the first event with ASOFRE subsidising all post-graduate registrations, it will be an incredible result to break even. Planning is well underway for Melbourne's Congress on 20-24 May 2026, led by Congress Chair Dr Chris Theodosi, with further details to be shared in the coming months.

I am honoured to have represented our profession at AAO New Orleans and NZAO and look forward to AAO Philadelphia in April 2025 and WFO Rio de Janeiro in October 2025.

The future of our profession and society is bright. We are privileged to have strong leadership and a committed team with the ASO HQ comprised of Kerstin Baas (CEO), Juanita Ward-Harvey (Communications and Operations Manager), Kate Harris (Finance Manager), Ian Denney (Membership and Service Coordinator), Ian White (Company Secretary) and Megan Rowe (Business Support Coordinator). Our council is dynamic and vibrant with many aspects of our membership base represented with our dedicated Federal Council of Dr Sam Whittle (Vice President), Dr Francis Wong (Treasurer), Dr Kip Homewood (Secretary), A/Prof Maurice Meade (SA Councillor), Dr Marcus Tod (QLD Councillor), Dr Gosia Barley (WA Councillor), Dr Doreen Ng (Secretary Elect) and Dr Ray Te Moananui (Treasurer Elect). My sincere thanks to our many hard-working committees in their endeavour to ensure the ASO remains engaged and contemporary. We greatly appreciate our colleagues in industry that are integral to our professional lives and event sponsorship.

Lastly, I would like to thank our ASO Members for their continued support to facilitate ASO operations. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to be the first female president in the ASO's history. As many of you know, I have many roles to fulfil including being an active parent to 3 school aged children and practice owner with my husband, Rob. I am indebted to my family as a source of support to allow me time to give back to the profession that has given us so much.

**Dr Roslyn Mayne**  
President

# CEO Report



2024 was another big year for the ASO, marked by numerous achievements and initiatives from our various committees as shown throughout this report. The finalisation of the Strategic Plan for 2024-2027 was an important milestone and below is a snapshot of our progress with key strategic initiatives and what lies ahead.

## **Member Services, Support, and Engagement**

Our primary focus is to serve our members effectively, ensuring we remain relevant and provide value across the board. To achieve this in a changing environment, we are evaluating suitable feedback mechanisms such as surveys or focus groups to identify members' needs, with further updates to be shared in 2025.

We recognise the importance of continuing to evolve and enhance our offerings for students and recent graduates. As such, the ASOFRE will provide additional support alongside existing initiatives such as educational and travel grants to name a few.

In 2025, we will conduct a review of the Foundation for Research and Education and facilitate training for trustees and the ASOFRE Committee as part of this.

## **Advocacy and Dental Sector Collaboration**

We continue to strengthen our relationship with the dental sector through joint submissions with the ADA, ANZAOMS, and others, and you can find some examples listed in this report.

This year we will connect with international stakeholders at events such as the AAO Annual Session and no doubt take away important learnings, make new and strengthen existing connections.

The positive feedback from our first webinar with AHPRA in 2024 encourages

us to explore future collaboration opportunities with regulators to amplify the voice of the orthodontic profession. Areas for development and opportunities are the creation of strategies for advocacy and for partnering with private health funds.

Partnerships with the orthodontic corporate sector and sponsors remain strong though they are constantly evolving. The ASO identified a need to implement an advertising code to ensure compliance and just as importantly, alignment with our values and members' interests. A Code of Conduct for sponsorship opportunities, such as exhibitions at the ASO Congress, is currently being developed.

## **Research and Education**

The ASO is committed to playing an active role in supporting orthodontic research and academia. In 2024, we established a travel bursary funded by the ASOFRE to support academics, and we will continue to expand our efforts in this area.

With applications closing in December 2024, we are now in the process of appointing a new AOJ Editor, with a key goal being the restoration of AOJ's indexation with PubMed.

## **Community Education and Awareness**

In 2024, we engaged an external digital marketing expert to evaluate the Public Education Program (PEP) and establish objectives and metrics for the program, and appointed a digital agency capable of meeting our objectives.

The CIC welcomed new committee members who are already making valuable contributions, and an external digital communication expert has now been appointed in an advisory capacity to ensure the ASO keeps pace with the fast evolving digital landscape.

### **Strong, Effective, and Efficient Organisation**

In 2024, we focused on implementing a new membership database, engagement platform, and ASO member website. We are now leveraging this system at both Federal and state branch levels to facilitate information sharing and strategic decision-making. The new system has made the ASO more resilient and less dependent on individual staff members for critical tasks, thus ensuring continuity in member services. The automation has freed up time to allow staff to focus on strategic initiatives and member and committee support.

Council continues to support state branches by providing leadership and resources. Based on their feedback, we are developing induction materials for state branches to ensure a smooth onboarding process, as well as enhancing governance knowledge and compliance, and to better equip state Executives.

The ASO remains committed to investing in governance training for ASO branches. We look forward to welcoming more state branch executives at the Governance session in Hobart, which will provide a valuable opportunity to learn more about contemporary governance issues.

As of writing this report, the ASO Constitution is being reviewed, and proposed changes will be presented to ASO members for a vote at the 2025 AGM.

While much has been accomplished, there are many more opportunities to explore and further improve what we do, and I look forward to continuing our important work with Council, ASO members, committees and many stakeholders.

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I would like to thank our members for being part of the ASO. Being the CEO of an association such as the ASO is a real privilege.

I would further like to thank President Dr Roslyn Mayne and Federal Council for their guidance and support, and our many committees and volunteers who contribute so much to the society and profession. It would be impossible for the ASO to have as much impact without them.

Finally, I would like to thank the ASO team who are committed every day to support our members and committees.

We all look forward to seeing you in Hobart.

**Kerstin Baas**  
CEO



# Treasurer Report



## ASO Inc Financial Statement

The financial statements for ASO Inc show a closing balance of equity of \$4,653,773 as at 31 December 2024. This is the result of taking the closing balance as at 31 December 2023 of \$3,967,367 and adding a surplus of \$476,094 as well as a fair value gain on financial assets of \$210,312 during the 2024 year.

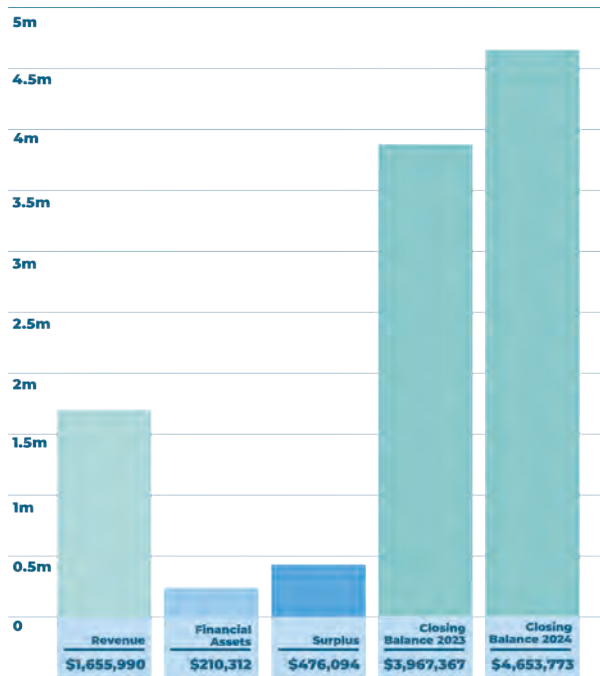
Our revenue for 2024 totalled \$1,655,990 and comprises income from member subscriptions, the CIC contribution, advertising activities and, being a Congress year, also includes congress levies as well as profit from the 29th Australian Orthodontic Congress held in Adelaide in March. Member subscriptions remain much the same as 2023 but the Congress enjoyed a profit of \$388,869, which serves to highlight how important the biennial event is to the Society, not only for the educational content and social aspects it offers to members, but for its financial impact.

Significant notes relating to expenses for 2024 that are not necessarily apparent in the financial statements include:

- The new CRM system was implemented in the first half of the year and included one-off costs such as project management, third party support and training during implementation of the project of approximately \$60,000.
- Council implemented a cloud-based digital board management platform called Board Effect for \$10,000 to enable better and more secure governance.

- An increase in staff wages to retain experienced key personnel in a tight labour market as well as having to find a replacement for our Business Support Coordinator during the busy period of membership renewals.

- A decrease in marketing to bring spending in line with the CIC levy and limiting spending on our communications agency, Keep Left, to a maintenance only program whilst the tender process for a new marketing agency took place.



## Ord Minnett Investment Update

Members may recall that Council decided to change investment managers around the middle of 2023 and I am pleased to report that the change has resulted in a significant turnaround with greatly improved reporting and communication from our investment advisers and, importantly, the performance of our investments.

Since inception (5 July 2023 to 31 December 2024) the ASO Inc portfolio has performed well, returning 15.75% or \$640,118, after fees, and inclusive of franking credits, versus the Morningstar Moderately Conservative benchmark of 11.13% over the same period. The asset

allocation of ASO Inc, being 40% growth and 60% income, remains unchanged and represents a moderately conservative risk profile, which is appropriate to provide sufficient liquidity for the Society's operational requirements whilst obtaining real capital growth and yield enhancement over time.

### Good Governance

The members of the ASO Finance, Audit and Risk Committee including our Chair, Tom Milicevic, and with assistance from our Finance Manager, Kate Harris, our CEO, Kerstin Baas and our Company Secretary, Ian White, have invested much of their time over the course of 2024 to improve governance and oversight of all finance-related activities of the Society. This has included establishing a conflict of interest policy, reviewing our investment policy and strategy, assessing and mitigating financial risks associated with holding Congresses and FRE meetings, and reviewing all the various ASO policies and procedures as required to ensure they are relevant and up to date. Members can be reassured that the processes the ASO team are putting in place ensures that our governance is robust and of a high standard.

### A New Initiative to Support our Academics and Students

Following lengthy discussions over the course of 2024, Council established a new travel and expenses policy including an academic bursary of up to \$15,000 for Australian University academics who are also academic members of the ASO. The bursary is funded by the ASOFRE and is intended to support the work of academics in developing orthodontic education in Australia and promoting and presenting their research at international conferences.

In a show of further support to academics and students, Council also resolved to fully subsidise the cost of registration to attend ASO Congresses and FRE meetings for Heads of Orthodontic Departments as well as all Australian postgraduate orthodontic students. An additional

Educational Resource Payment of \$1,000 to every 3rd year postgraduate student has also been approved to assist final year students with their needs as they approach the end of their studies and complements the existing student travel grant of \$1,500 that is offered to every 2nd year student to encourage them to attend an international conference. Both of these grants are in addition to the long-standing student research grant of \$2,500 per student per year that each University currently receives from the ASOFRE.

### Final Remarks

Membership renewals have just been completed for the first time with the new CRM system and already the ASO team have seen enormous improvements in efficiency, so much so that the audit for 2024 was completed by the first week of February 2025.

Looking to 2025, we are excited to begin utilising the full potential of our significant investment in the new CRM system to deliver more tailored and targeted communications to members and a more streamlined user experience. To maintain the level of service offerings to members and to enable the Society to evolve with continuing changes in the orthodontic sphere, I will propose at the upcoming AGM in March in Hobart that the federal component of our membership fees be increased 2.8% in line with CPI as is typically the case. SDJA, together with our Finance Manager and CEO, have again met the tight timeline required to complete audit processes in the lead up to the AGM and have done so proficiently; I encourage members to again endorse SDJA as the ASO's appointed auditors.

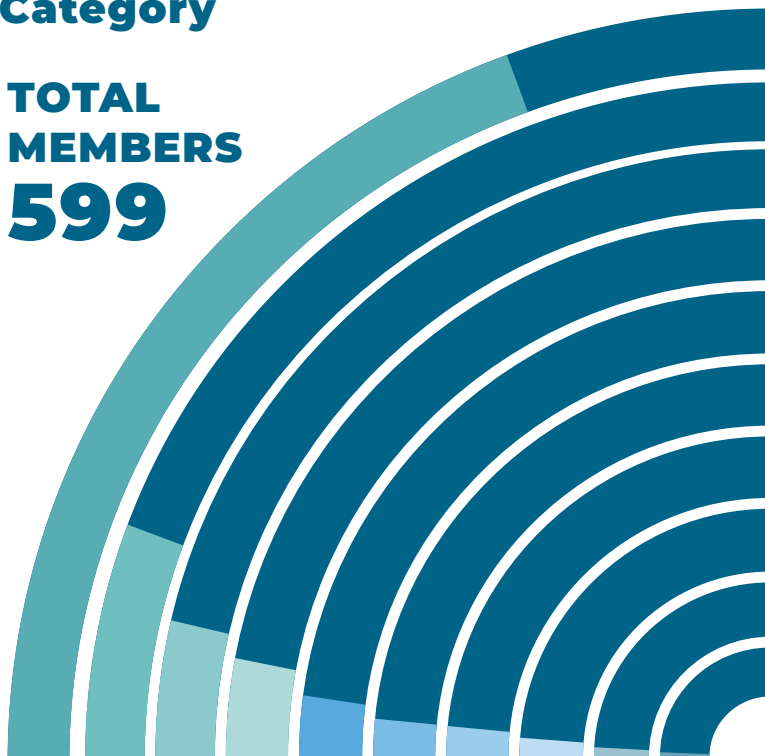
Lastly, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow Councillors and all the staff at the ASO office – Kerstin Baas, Kate Harris, Juanita Ward-Harvey, Ian White, Megan Rowe and Ian Denney – for their continued dedication and desire to see the ASO succeed in its mission to serve you, the members.

**Dr Francis Wong**  
ASO Treasurer

# Membership Snapshot

## Members by Category

**TOTAL MEMBERS**  
**599**



431 53 32 29 22 14 8 6 3 1

FULL

STUDENT

SEMI-RETIRED

RETIRED

HONORARY LIFE

SECOND YEAR OUT

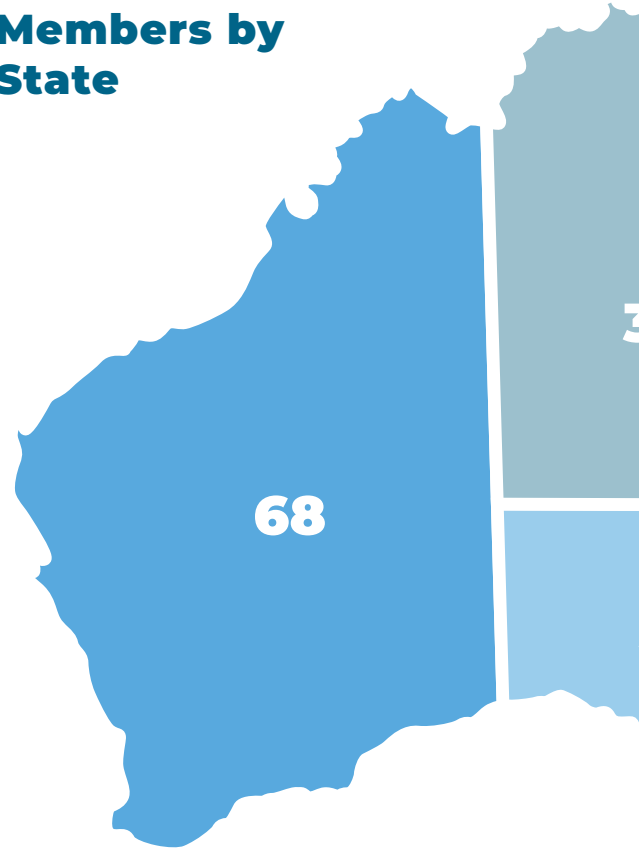
OS FULL

ACADEMIC

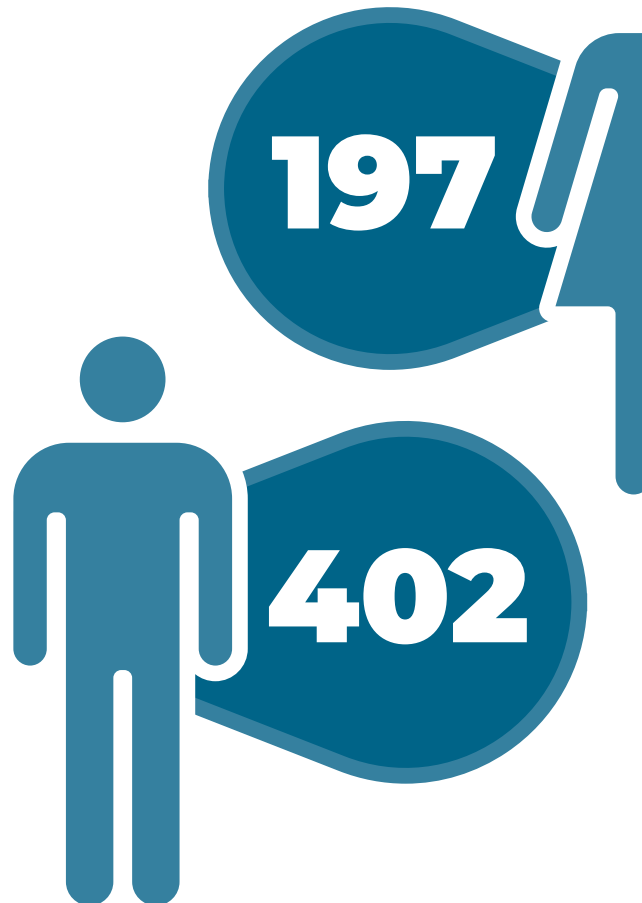
OS STUDENT

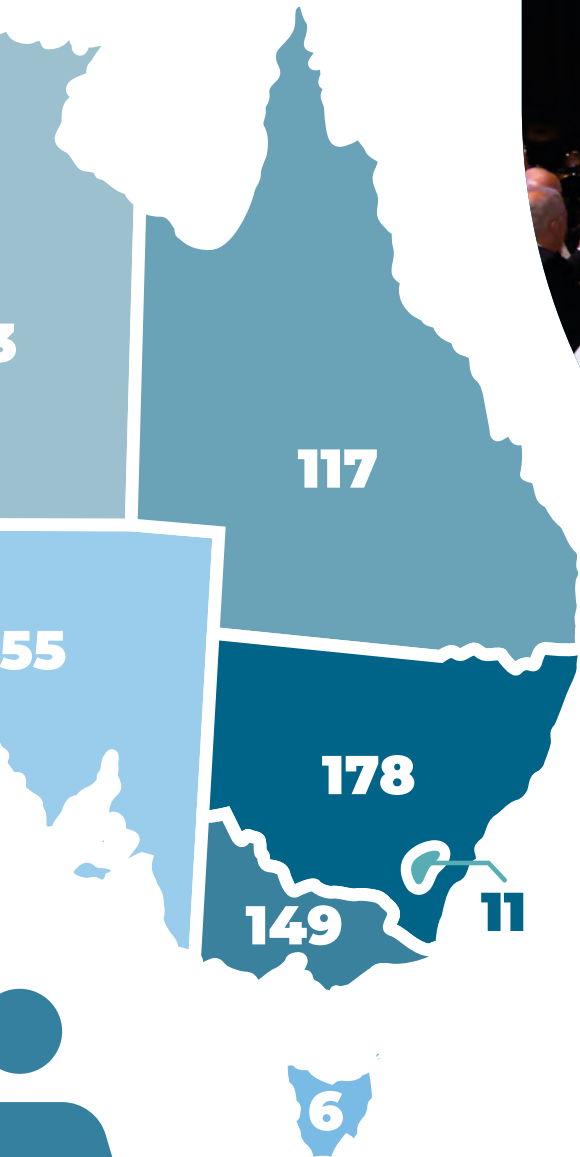
RESEARCH STUDENT

## Members by State



## Members by Gender





OVERSEAS  
12

## Membership Committee Report

The Membership Advisory Sub-Committee reviewed the following applications in 2024

TOTAL APPROVED  
53



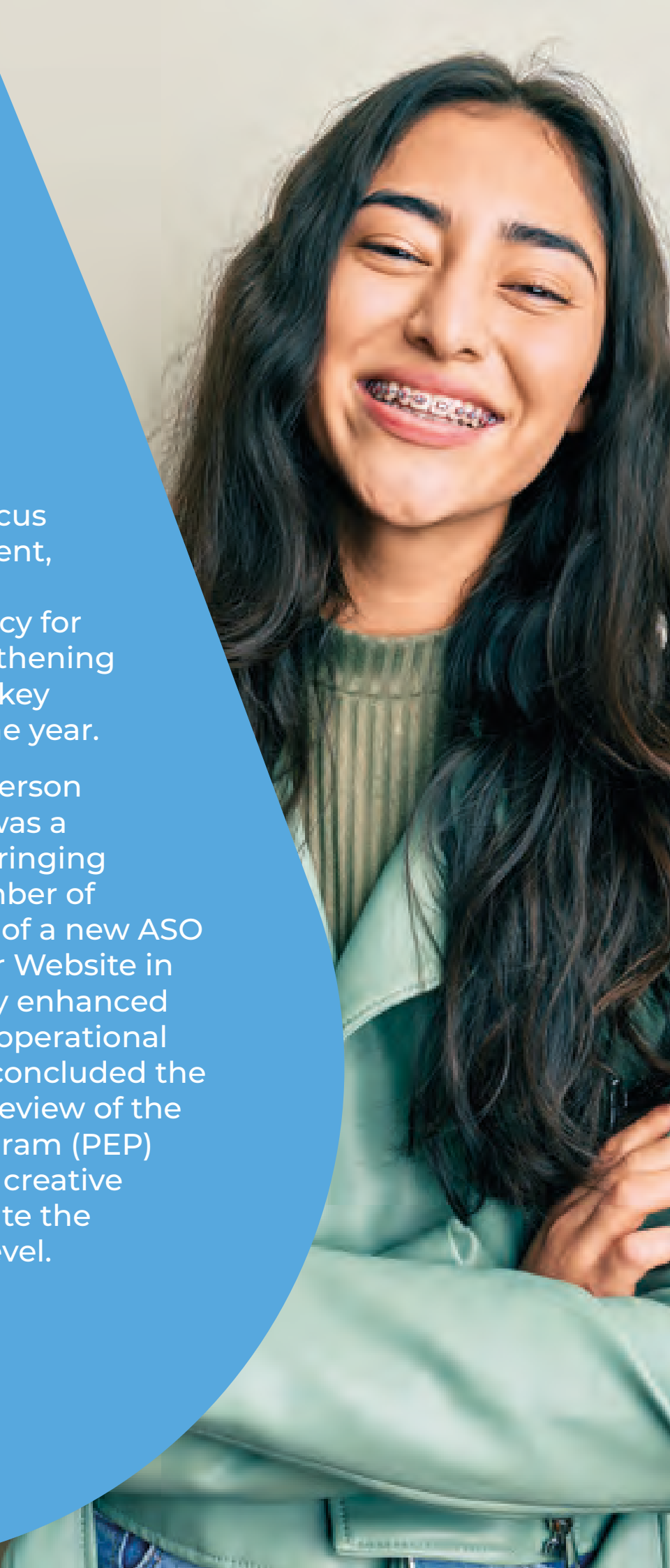
- ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIP 3
- STUDENT MEMBERS 19
- 1ST / 2ND YEAR OUT 31
- FULL MEMBERS 0
- OVERSEAS 0
- REJECTIONS 2



# Year in Review

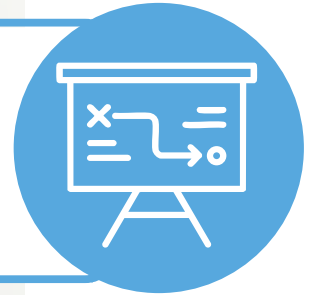
2024 was a landmark year for our Society, marked by a strong focus on Member engagement, support for recent graduates and advocacy for the profession. Strengthening these areas remained key themes throughout the year.

In March, the first in-person Congress in six years was a resounding success, bringing together a record number of delegates. The launch of a new ASO database and Member Website in April 2024 significantly enhanced Member services and operational efficiencies. The ASO concluded the year by finalising the review of the Public Education Program (PEP) and appointing a new creative digital agency to elevate the program to the next level.



# Key Projects and Successes for 2024

Completed the ASO strategic plan  
2024 - 2027



12 pairs of mentors and mentees  
completed the 2023-2024 Mentoring  
Program for recent graduates

950 delegates attended the 29th  
Australian Orthodontic Congress



370K+ people visited the Orthodontics  
Australia (OA) consumer website

Our Public Education Program (PEP)  
reached 721K+ people through social  
media



14,378 people used the Finder Tool to  
search for a specialist orthodontist



# The 29th Australian Orthodontic Congress

The first face to face Congress in 6 years was a triumph, with 950 delegates, including 23 speakers, 38 exhibitors, 180 industry registrations and 26 international attendees.



## Advocacy and Stakeholders

The ASO continued to foster collaborative relationships with sector stakeholders to advocate on behalf of our Members and the profession. Throughout 2024, the ASO reviewed and responded to various consultations and submissions, including:

### Dental Sector Working Group and TGA

- Proposed changes to the regulation of exempt medical devices and exempt other therapeutic goods. The ASO's submission is available [here](#) and the joint submission with the ADA can be found [here](#).
- Instructions For Use for Medical Devices (Joint submission with the ADA).
- Legislating regulatory categories for some boundary and combination products (ADA joint submission).
- Introducing mandatory guardrails for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in high-risk settings.
- Medical Devices Essential Principles.

### AHPRA

- Specialist Registration Standard.
- Review of the Criminal History Registration Standard
- Feedback on draft guidance for developing professional capabilities
- Supported ANZAOM's submission for protection of the title 'surgeon'.

### ADA

- Consultation on Infection Prevention & Control Guidelines.
- Consultation on ADA Policy Statements.

### Australian Radiation Protection & Nuclear Safety Agency

- Draft Code for Radiation Protection in Dental Exposure.

The ASO is the expert voice for orthodontists in all stakeholder engagement and will continue to advocate for members to reduce hurdles for the profession; improve our patient outcomes in all aspects of care; and provide practitioner support of all levels of experience.

## Digital Transformation: New ASO CRM and Member Website launched in April 2024

After six months of implementation, the ASO launched a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system and Member website in April 2024. This is one of the most significant projects for our Society in recent years.

The new system allowed the ASO to streamline processes, better support Members, committees and state branches, and improve the overall Member experience. Some of the new features of the new Member website include:

- A resource and video library - it contains hundreds of exclusive Member resources such as the popular patient transfer protocol.
- An enhanced Member profile – all the individual Member information is available at their fingertips
- Self-service Jobs Board - the go-to destination to promote vacant roles to the ASO wide community
- Improved event management and event promotions to support state branches and committees
- Automated fundraising and more...

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



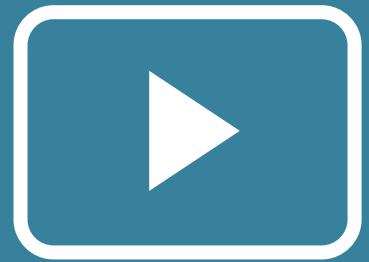
Stay tuned for the introduction of more exciting new website features in 2025 as we continue to further enhance the new system.



# 2024 Public Education Program (PEP) Highlights

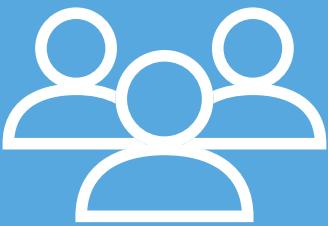


**373,837**  
Orthodontics  
Australia (OA)  
consumer  
website visits



Our educational  
videos were  
watched **594,224**  
**times**

**721,593** people  
reached through  
social media



**14,378**  
prospective  
patients used  
the Finder Tool  
to search for  
a specialist  
orthodontist



# 2024 Public Education Program (PEP)

In 2024, the Federal Council conducted an independent audit of the Public Education Program (PEP) to ensure it achieves desired outcomes and provides value to ASO Members. During the review, and for most of 2024, the PEP focused on lead-generation activities for Members and better utilising the array of high impact content that had been created in previous years.

Despite this changed approach, the ASO observed continued growth in 2024 that positions the PEP well in the year to come. Leads generated through the Finder Tool hit an all-time high before the calendar year ended.

Based on the independent audit findings by an external digital communications expert, the PEP was put out to tender in late 2024.

After a thorough review of the submissions and shortlisting three agencies including the incumbent, the ASO appointed Ntegrity as its new creative digital agency.

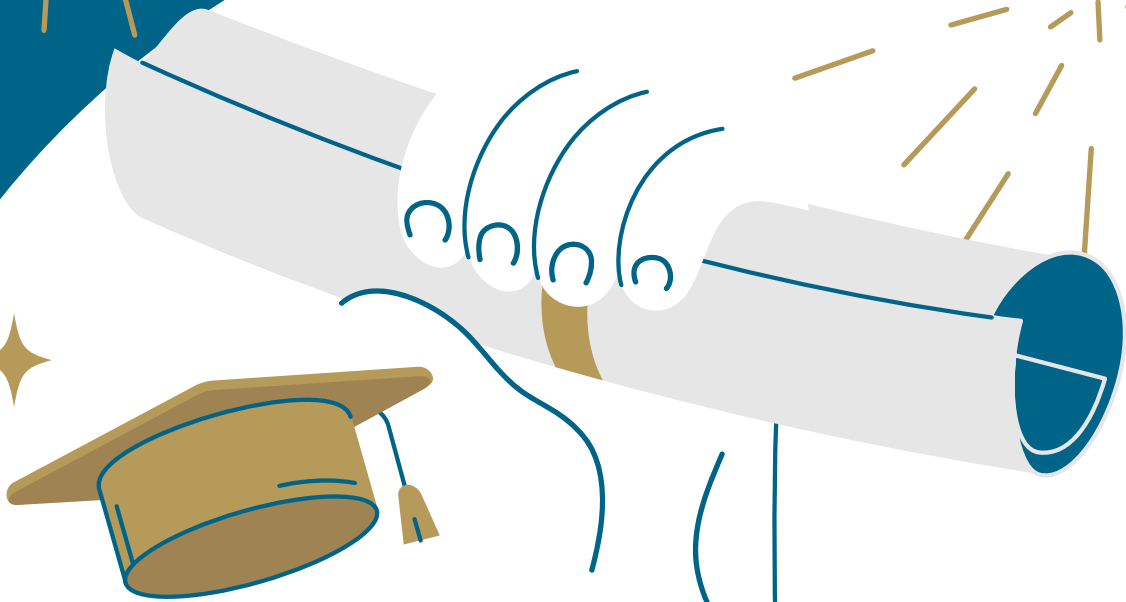
Ntegrity has strong experience in delivering health-focused public education campaigns, working with high-profile organisations such as Beyond Blue, Movember, Vision Australia and Breast Cancer Trials.

The ASO and the Communications Information Committee (CIC) are looking forward to working with Ntegrity and taking our Public Education Program to the next level.

See page 24 for a full report.



# Support for Recent Graduates



**Welcome to  
the Profession**

**Class of  
2024**

# 2023-2024 Mentoring Program

## Recent Graduates Committee Report

The SA Branch recent graduates met for dinner in November 2024 to discuss the year's progress and their exciting future. Multiple Members attended including Drs Sophie Roberts, Philip Nguyen, Shaun Goh and all the University of Adelaide orthodontic post-graduates. Congratulations and a warm welcome to the 2024 graduates.

Dr Ho Jin Yoo organised two recent grad catch ups in May and September 2024 and all WA Members were able to attend. The 2024 WA Recent Graduate Committee was a small group consisting of five Members including Drs Ho Jin Yoo, Sadaf Sassani, Dipika Mistry, Raymond Lam and Jessica Kong. The NSW/ACT branch recent graduates committee also held a dinner in Sydney in November 2024.

The recent grad catch ups are a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with the peers again after graduation to share knowledge and laughter. Dr Yoo will continue to organise the recent grad catch ups in 2025.

### **Dr Shaun Goh**

Chair, Recent Graduate  
Committee



The ASO welcomes to the profession the Class of 2024. The Society supports recent graduates through various resources and initiatives designed to help them excel professionally.

The ASO and its Members continue to support the next generation of orthodontists. Part of this commitment is the ongoing facilitation of a mentoring program, and 2024 was no different.

The 12 pairs were introduced at the end of 2023 and the program officially wrapped up in October 2024, with some pairs expressing their intention of continuing their relationship for the foreseeable future. Thank you to the mentees and mentors that provided feedback.

## Feedback from Mentees:

*“Wonderful experience, I have learnt a lot”*

*“It’s gone too quick”*

*“Eye opening and professionally rewarding”*

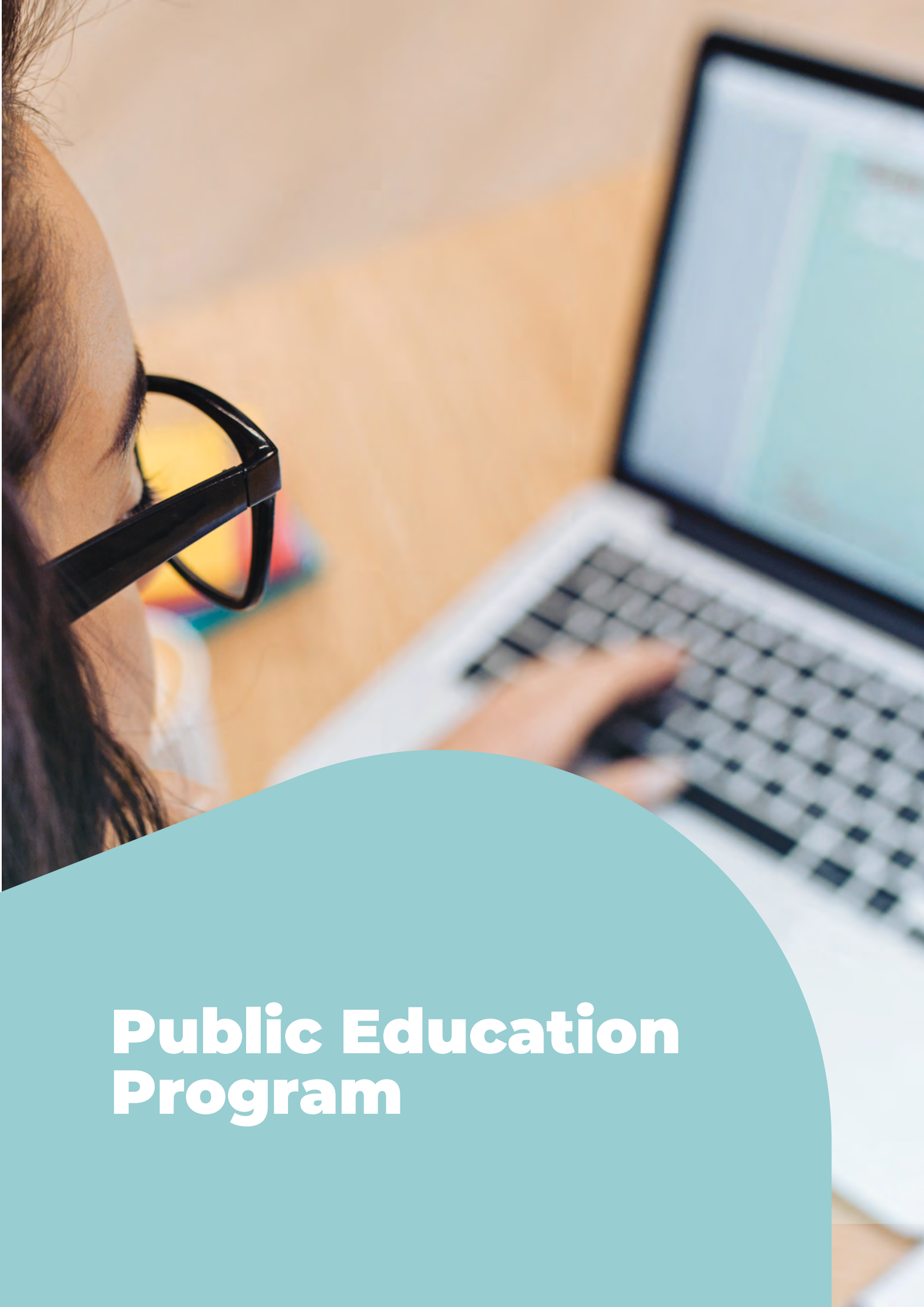
## Feedback from Mentors:

*“I’ve enjoyed the mentoring program. My mentee has been engaged and keen to learn, and it has given me opportunity to reflect on my own journey in starting and running my practice”*

*“I hope I have been able to provide advice and guidance for a new graduate given the challenges I faced when starting out. I feel it has been a rewarding experience and I hope to continue supporting the profession in the future”*

### OrthoGrad Insights: The ASO’s Recent Graduate Guide

In late 2023, we launched “OrthoGrad Insights” a resource to help new practitioners navigate and overcome early career challenges. The focus of the first three editions has been on providing practical advice to assist recent graduates in starting or acquiring their own practice. The publication can be found in the publication section of the [ASO Resource library](#).



# **Public Education Program**

In 2024, while the ASO reviewed its Strategic Plan and the Public Education Program (PEP), activity shifted into maintenance mode, utilising the vast and successful content that has been created in the past and placing greater reliance on \*organic search traffic to drive discovery among our key audiences.

### **Finder Tool Development**

The change in approach had a positive impact on our lead generation activity via the Finder Tool. We saw a year-on-year increase in traffic to the Finder Tool and hit the 2023 12-month total for leads by early December 2024. This is a significant win, considering the change of approach, and it also highlights the strength of the Finder Tool in our audience's mind.

### **The Cost of Braces Survey**

In the last quarter of 2024, we completed the Cost of Braces survey, and we would like to thank those Members who participated. By answering questions about the services you provide, how much you charge, and the general sentiment in your practices, we can get a better picture of our industry. This, in turn, allows us to better inform and educate consumers on your behalf.

The overall results can be downloaded [here](#).

### **Appointment of New Creative Digital Agency**

Once the ASO's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan was completed, the Federal Council and CIC conducted an independent external audit of the PEP to ensure it achieves desired outcomes in line with strategic objectives and provides value and return of investment to ASO Members.



Based on the audit findings, the PEP was put out to tender in late 2024. After a thorough review of the submissions, the ASO appointed Ntegrity as its new creative digital agency. We are looking forward to working with Ntegrity, evolving and taking the PEP to the next level.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the notable outcomes that have been achieved with the incumbent agency Keep Left over many years such as the 'It takes a certain type of person' campaign.

As always, a big thank you to the entire CIC Committee for your work over the last 12 months – Drs Marcus Tod, Chelsea Mann, Benlee Yap, Anél Blignaut, Naomi Kohan, Pantea McKay, Theresia Sudjalim and Yana Itskovich. There are very few weeks where every member does not have to review or submit a social media posting and/or article. None of this work gets done without your input and meeting our often tight deadlines

### **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.*

A stage with a large glowing circular light fixture and spotlights. The background is a deep blue with a grid of black lines. The text "Australian Society of Orthodontists" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

**Australian Society  
of Orthodontists**

A teal circular graphic overlay in the bottom left corner, containing the text "ASO Foundation for Research and Education".

**ASO Foundation  
for Research  
and Education**



## Congratulations to our 2024 ASOFRE Award Winners

The Awards were presented during the 29th Australian Orthodontic Congress in Adelaide and recognised the most meritorious academic and research achievements of Members during the prior year. The award winners were;

**Dr Nessa Finlay (University of Sydney) – Milton R Sims Award.** This award is offered on a biennial basis to those completing their graduate programs. It is awarded to the most meritorious student in the two years preceding each Congress.

**Dr Jenny Doan (University of Sydney) – Elsdon Storey Research Award** for her research titled “A comparison of the slot dimensional accuracy & surface topography of proprietary & generic orthodontic brackets .”

**Dr Allen Hu (University of Otago) – Student Poster Prize** for his poster titled “The effect of posterior bite raising by clear aligners on habitual activity of the masticatory muscles”.



**Drs Nessa Finlay and Annu Nangia (ASOFRE Chair)**



**Drs Jenny Doan and Annu Nangia (ASOFRE Chair)**

## 2025 Foundation Meeting

The FRE Committee worked diligently during 2024 to plan the 2025 Foundation Meeting. The Meeting themed "Reflections on the Past, a Mirror to the Future", promises to be an insightful experience, offering valuable content and learnings. It will be the perfect opportunity to connect, collaborate, and drive your professional growth. Professor Martyn Cobourne, from The King's College, will be the Jan Taylor Lecturer and Keynote Speaker.

### ASOFRE Income and Expenditure in 2024

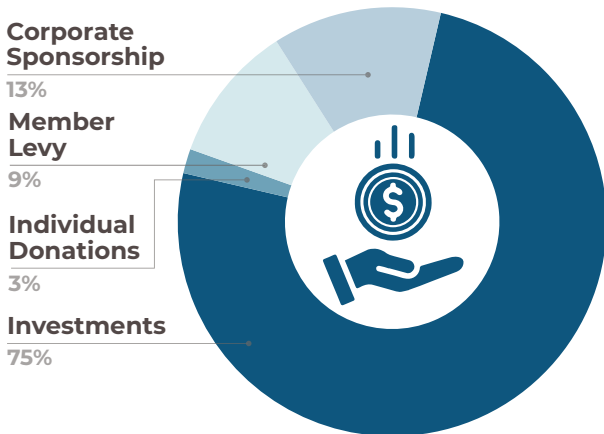
The ASOFRE's investment funds continue to be the main source of revenue, with levies and individual donations from Members and/or patients on their behalf being another important income stream.

In 2024, Members and public donors contributed over \$17,547 to the Foundation and the ASO extends its sincere gratitude to Members for their continued support.

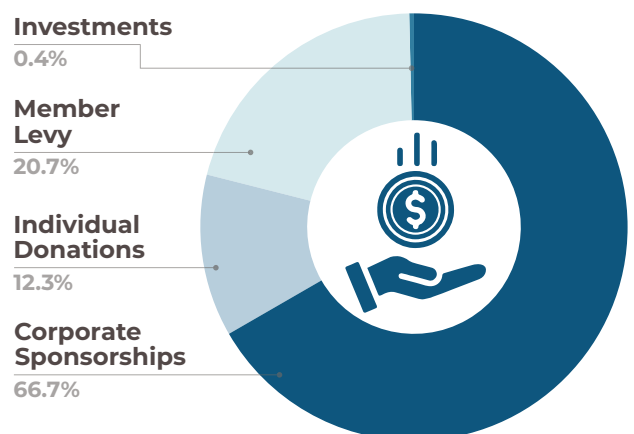
The ASO would also like to thank our sponsors, particularly Henry Schein, for their support. This year our corporate supporter Henry Schein contributed \$88,100.

During the year the ASOFRE supported orthodontic research through the funding of postgraduate student travel grants (\$11,000), University support & grants (\$213,540), and awards (\$33,607) including examiner honorariums to a total of \$258,147.

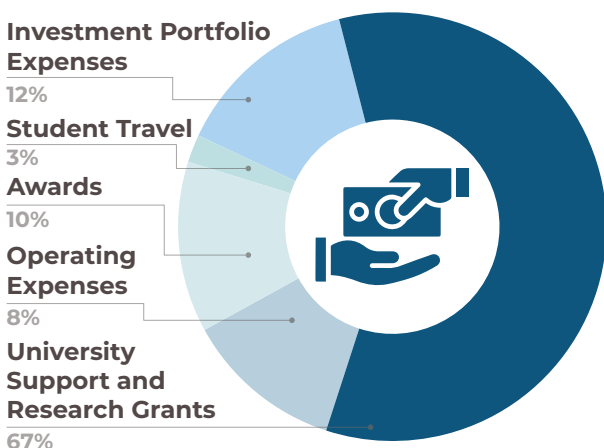
#### FRE income in 2024



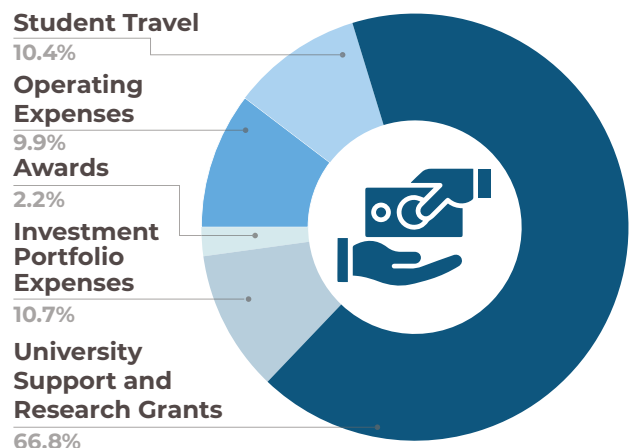
#### FRE income in 2023



#### FRE spending in 2024



#### FRE spending in 2023



## **Henry Schein Alliance**

In October 2024, the ASO was advised that, effective from 1st of January 2025, regrettably Henry Schein is no longer able to continue to provide financial support to the ASOFRE Trust due to industry challenges and global restructuring. The Henry Schein Alliance donation has been the single largest donation that the ASOFRE has received, and the ASO and ASOFRE are very grateful for this.

This collaboration, which has endured 21 years, stands as a testament to the personal relationships forged between key figures of the ASO NSW branch, ASO, ASOFRE and Henry Schein. Whilst all good things must come to an end, we would like to acknowledge the work completed by multiple executive committees during this time of an unprecedented reciprocal relationship.

## **New Initiatives from the ASOFRE**

The ASOFRE is fortunate to be in position to assist the academic staff and postgraduate students in their research activities and to provide assistance in attending conferences and meetings.

From 2025 onwards, all academics with at least a 0.5 employment status with an Australian University will be able to access a bursary up to \$15,000 annually to assist them with travelling to and attending conferences worldwide.

Postgraduate students will no longer have to pay for registration to attend biennial Foundation Meetings.

The postgraduate Research Grant for each of their three years of study will increase from \$2,000 per student to \$2,500 annually.

The postgraduate Student Travel and Equipment grant for second year students will be increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

In addition to this, all third year

postgraduate students will be eligible for a Resource Grant of \$1,000 to assist with submission and preparation of their thesis.

## **Final Message**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the entire Committee for their exceptional contributions to the ASOFRE. Special thanks to our Secretary, Dr Robert Mayne, Treasurer, Dr Alex Yusupov, and Committee Members Drs Chris Theodosi, Steven Naoum, Simon Toms, Derek Allan, and David Madsen, whose dedication has been instrumental to our success.

I also extend our appreciation to ASO CEO, Kerstin Baas, for her unwavering support throughout the year. Kerstin's consistent presence at our meetings and her invaluable insights have greatly enriched our endeavours.

## **Dr Annu Nangia**

Chair, ASOFRE

## **Grateful Patient Program**

Beyond the contributions from ASO Members and corporate sponsorships, the Foundation has greatly benefited from the generosity of grateful patients. We sincerely appreciate ASO Members who have encouraged their patients to support the Foundation through the Grateful Patient Donation Program. This initiative allows patients to make tax-deductible contributions, furthering our mission. Patients can now donate online via the ASO website by clicking the "[Grateful patient donation](#)" button.



**Laura Chen**  
University of Melbourne

*A comparative assessment of clinical effectiveness between different types of orthodontic retention.*

## Summary

Retention remains one of the most important yet controversial aspects of orthodontic treatment, with little consensus on what the optimal retention protocol is to ensure long-term treatment stability. It is thought that CAD/CAM fixed retainers have the potential to outperform traditional retainers in terms of reliability, accuracy, and effectiveness, however little data exists on their clinical performance.

The aim of this multi-centre non-randomized clinical trial was to assess and compare the clinical effectiveness of three different types of mandibular retention – (1) CAD/CAM custom-bent BenderII canine-to-canine fixed retainers, (2) conventional Elgiloy canine-and-canine retainers, and (3) a control group of removable retainers only. The study groups were assessed in terms of post-treatment stability (primary outcome), failure rate, periodontal status and patient satisfaction (secondary outcomes) during a 6-month period.

## Materials and Method

A total of 73 mandibular arches were included in this study. 31 received the BenderII canine-to-canine retainer, 25 received the Elgiloy canine-and-canine retainer, while 17 received removable retainers only (control group).

At the deband appointment (T0), an intra-oral digital scan of the mandibular teeth was completed. Participants were recalled for retainer check appointments after 1-3 months (T1) and 6 months (T6) following deband. At all visits, a clinical examination was performed, which included documenting any instances of retainer failures as well as recording of the periodontal status. Participants were also given an online questionnaire to complete after each visit (T1 and T6) regarding their comfort and satisfaction of their fixed

# 2024 Project Highlights

and removable retainers. A second intra-oral digital scan was completed at T6 to measure post-treatment stability. Post-treatment stability was measured through four parameters – arch length, inter-canine distance, inter-molar distance and Little's Irregularity Index (LII).

## Results

In the mandibular arch, there was no statistically significant difference in changes in arch length, inter-canine distance, inter-molar distance and Little's Irregularity Index during the first 6 months of retention. All failures in the mandibular arch within 6 months post-retention were observed in the BenderII canine-to-canine retainers, with 29.1% of retainers failing. Most periodontal status measurements were comparable across all groups, with generally good periodontal health seen overall across all participants. However, the Elgiloy canine-and-canine group had higher gingival and calculus index scores at T1 and T6 respectively. Patient satisfaction was also similar across all groups with the exception that participants with mandibular fixed retainers were more satisfied in terms of speech compared to those with removable retainers only.

## Conclusion

There was no evidence of a statistically significant difference in CAD/CAM custom-bent BenderII canine-to-canine fixed retainers compared to conventional Elgiloy canine-and-canine retainers or removable retainers only, in terms of post-treatment stability in the mandibular arch after 6 months of retention. A higher rate of failure was seen with BenderII canine-to-canine retainers, but most periodontal and patient satisfaction measurements were similar amongst all groups.



**Mimi  
Kim Ngo**  
University of  
Adelaide

### *The quality of orthognathic surgery information on social media: A scoping review*

#### **Summary**

Orthognathic surgery, often combined with orthodontic treatment, addresses facial and dental disharmony. Social media platforms have become a prominent source of healthcare information, but this scoping review highlights concerns about the quality of such content.

A total of 12 cross-sectional studies were analyzed, revealing that the quality of information on platforms like YouTube ranged from poor to moderate. Patient-generated content, which focused on personal experiences and treatment satisfaction, was the most popular but often lacked clinically relevant details. In contrast, healthcare professionals provided higher-quality information but attracted less engagement. Important topics such as complications, costs, and postoperative expectations were underrepresented.

The methodologies and evaluation tools for assessing information quality varied widely across studies. These findings underscore the need for orthodontic professionals to recognize the limitations of social media health information and guide individuals toward more accurate, reliable sources.

#### **Materials and Method**

Five databases and grey literature were searched, with no restrictions on location and year published. The PCC (Population, Concept, Context) framework was adopted to select eligible studies. Inclusion criteria included literature that assessed the quality of information on orthognathic surgery in relation to orthodontic treatment in the context of social media.

#### **Results**

Twelve studies examined social media content on orthognathic surgery, with YouTube being the most studied platform. Patient-shared experiences were popular but lacked clinical details, while healthcare professionals provided better quality information with less engagement. Key topics like complications, costs, and postoperative expectations were underrepresented, with varied methodologies across studies.

#### **Conclusion**

Social media platforms provide poor to moderate quality information on orthognathic surgery. Orthodontic professionals should recognize these limitations and guide individuals toward more reliable and accurate sources of healthcare information.



**David Day**  
University of Western  
Australia

***Accuracy of iTero and  
TRIOS Intra-oral Scans  
Taken with Fixed  
Orthodontic Appliances:  
An In-vivo Study***

### Summary

The aim of this project was to assess the relative accuracy of intra-oral scans (IOS) taken with the iTero-Lumina™ and 3-Shape TRIOS 5, which represents the latest intra-oral scanner technological fruition by these prevalent manufacturers. Whether the presence of stainless-steel orthodontic brackets (American Orthodontics Empower®) adversely affects the accuracy of IOS was also assessed, as well as whether accuracy differs in the anterior and posterior sextants was assessed.

Where the current research differs from previously conducted projects is with the use of a validated novel methodology, described by Kuhr et al, which truly measures accuracy. Previous literature has often lacked a reliable reference-based system from which accuracy can genuinely be assessed. Similarly, this research was done in an in-vivo setting which allowed for a more reliable assessment of these scanners' performance in the clinical situation.

### Materials and Method

Stainless steel spheres ( $\varnothing$  5mm) were temporarily bonded to the patient's maxillary dentition at precise distances in the x, y and z planes. These positions were confirmed with a reference scan (iMetric D104 iScan) for each individual patient.

Intra-oral scans were taken with the iTero Lumina™ and 3Shape TRIOS 5 before and after bonding the stainless-steel orthodontic brackets.

Each IO scan was then compared against the reference scan, 'pre-bonding' and 'post-bonding', using RPS alignment (Geomagic® Control X™) where each deviation was averaged.

The overall accuracy, the effect of the orthodontics brackets and whether there was a difference in the anterior and posterior sextants were assessed.

### Results

#### **Overall accuracy (average deviations)**

Pre-bonding: iTero (60.9 $\mu$ m) and TRIOS (59.7  $\mu$ m)

Post bonding: iTero (68.3  $\mu$ m) and TRIOS (63.6  $\mu$ m)

Effect of orthodontic brackets (average deviations)

iTero: +4.7  $\mu$ m (not statistically significant  $p= 0.17$ )

TRIOS: +3.9  $\mu$ m (not statistically significant  $p =0.44$ )

Anterior vs posterior:

iTero: not statistically significant

TRIOS: not statistically significant

### Conclusion

The iTero-Lumina and 3-Shape TRIOS 5 provide clinically acceptable and similar performance regarding the accuracy of intra-oral scans. The presence of stainless-steel orthodontic brackets does not adversely affect the accuracy of intra-oral scans and there is no difference in accuracy of scans in the anterior or posterior areas of the maxillary arch.





**Annabel Hoe**  
University of Queensland

***Predictability of mesio-distal tip of maxillary central incisors in clear aligner therapy***

**Summary**

Correct positioning of the maxillary central incisors (MxCIs) is a vital component of smile aesthetics and orthodontic treatment success. This study investigated the efficacy of Invisalign® SmartTrack® aligners in achieving the mesiodistal tip of MxCIs, with an objective comparison to the ClinCheck® (Align Technology®, San Jose, Calif, USA) prediction.

**Materials and Method**

174 MxCI teeth from 87 adult patients were selected from the Australasian Aligner Research Database. All patients exhibited pretreatment overlapping MxCI crowns and were treated with Invisalign® SmartTrack® aligners. The pretreatment tooth position, the planned mesiodistal tip movement using the ClinCheck® software and the achieved posttreatment tooth position were analysed.

**Results**

For the planned mesial root tip MxCI group, the mean planned and achieved mesial tip was 2.53o (SE, 0.29o) and 2.22o (SE, 0.42o) respectively, indicating an undercorrection of 0.31o (SE, 0.38o) ( $P > 0.05$ ). For the planned distal root tip MxCI group, the mean planned and achieved distal tip was 2.09o (SE, 0.22o) and 0.39o (SE, 0.36o) respectively, indicating a mean undercorrection of 1.70o (SE, 0.39o) ( $P < 0.001$ ). There was no statistically significant association between the presence of attachments and the efficacy of the mesiodistal tip achieved for MxCIs ( $P > 0.05$ ). No significant relationship was found ( $P > 0.05$ ) between a 1-weekly or 2-weekly wear schedule, with respect to the efficacy of achieving mesiodistal tip for MxCIs.

**Conclusion**

The overall percentage accuracy of mesiodistal tip movements for MxCIs when using Invisalign® SmartTrack® aligners was 53.3%. The presence of attachments and the influence of 1-weekly vs 2-weekly wear schedule were not found to have any significant influence on the efficacy of achieving the planned mesiodistal tip movements for MxCIs.





**Tracy Tang**  
University of Sydney

***The Effect of Low-Level Laser Therapy (LLLT) on the Development of Orthodontically Induced Inflammatory Root Resorption (OIIRR):***

***A Randomised Controlled Trial with Temporary Bite Raisers***

**Summary**

Recent studies have suggested that LLLT may be effective in preventing orthodontic root resorption, however there is limited knowledge regarding its use in preventing root resorption that occurs from occlusal trauma. Occlusal trauma induced by temporary adhesive bite raisers has been found to produce a sevenfold increase in root resorption compared to unaffected teeth over a four-week period. (Cakmak et al. 2014) The aim of this project is to investigate the effect of LLLT on the volume of root resorption of maxillary and mandibular first premolar teeth after being subjected to four weeks of occlusal trauma using temporary adhesive bite raisers. The trial utilises a split mouth, double-blind design.

**Materials and Method**

Twelve adolescent patients who required extraction of all four first premolar teeth were recruited from Sydney Dental Hospital in 2024. OIIRR was induced by applying temporary bite raisers to the mandibular first premolar teeth to contact the opposing maxillary first premolar teeth over 28 days. One side of each patient was randomly allocated to receive the LLLT. The other side received a sham laser. LLLT was delivered using a 650nm wavelength (red light), gallium-aluminium-arsenide, light emitting diode laser, with continuous wave at 0.2 W average power. An 8mm diameter rod was used with a beam area/ spot size of 0.5cm<sup>2</sup>. Total application was 2 minutes per tooth. Laser/ sham laser applications occurred on Day 0, 7, 14 and 28. All four first premolar teeth were extracted on Day 28 by a blinded oral surgeon and scanned using micro-computed tomography. Root resorption craters were identified and measured to compare the total volume of root resorption and undertake subgroup analyses, including per surface assessment.

**Results & Conclusion**

Pending as project is still underway.

# 29th Australian Orthodontic Congress



**Dr Melinda Barva, Congress Chair and Convenor**



**ASO Award Ceremony: Dr Andrew Toms (outgoing President), Dr Simon Freezer (Honorary Life Member), Dr Elissa Freer (Distinguished Services Award and Dr Roslyn Mayne (President).**

In March 2024, the SA Branch hosted the 29th Australian Orthodontic Congress at the Adelaide Convention Centre. The event, held on 13-17 March, was a welcome return to the face-to-face format, after six years, attracting more than 950 delegates, including 26 international attendees, 23 speakers, 38 exhibitors and 180 industry registrations.

The theme chosen for the Adelaide Congress was 'Technique and Technology' which was delivered through both the scientific and auxiliary streams.

Keynote speakers included Dr Willy Dayan, Prof Padhraig Fleming, Dr Simon Graf, Dr Juan Carlos Perez Varela, and Dr Julia Von Bremen. In addition, we had presentations by eminent Australian orthodontists and non-orthodontists to expand our knowledge in other areas. Special thanks to Bernard Salt and Mike Mayhew for their fabulous presentations to the joint doctors and auxiliaries' session.

In addition to the scientific and auxiliary programs, attendees had the opportunity to participate in a variety of social activities and visit the trade exhibitions. I am pleased to report that many of the delegates took advantage of these ancillary activities which greatly contributed to the overall success of the Congress.

A highlight of the Congress for many attendees, was the 2024 Stanley Wilkinson Oration which showcased a compelling lecture by Dr James Muecke, a leading eye surgeon and 2020 Australian of the Year. Dr Muecke's presentation focused on his journey from treating eye diseases, including vision impairment, which afflict people with diabetes, to his fight to build greater government and community awareness around the causes of type 2 diabetes, and opportunities to prevent and even reverse the effects of this disease through simple lifestyle changes. He also pointed out the rapid increasing cost of this disease to our health system and the substantial economic and quality of life benefits available.

Social Program highlights included the:

### **President's Reception & Past President's Celebration**

This function was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre and was well attended. We were very pleased to have 9 past presidents of the ASO in attendance, including Rick Olive (1998-2000), John Owen (2000-2002), Ian Watson (2002-2004), Shane Fryer (2008-2010), Mike Razza (2010-2012), Tony Collett (2014-2016), Peter J Lewis (2016-2018), Patrick Hannan (2018-2020) and Howard Holmes (2020-2022) as well as the outgoing president, Andrew Toms (2022-2024) and our President Roslyn Mayne (2024-2026).

### **Party Night at The Drive Tennis Centre**

Party goers embraced the theme of 1980s/ Let's Get Physical and their enthusiasm in their choice of funky outfits set the scene for a fun night. Never let it be said that orthodontists and their staff don't know how to party! Congratulations to all who attended on the choice of their outfits. There were so many colourful leotards on the Let's Get Physical theme, 80's rock singers (including appearances by Kiss, Freddie Mercury and Tina Turner), movie stars and even a guest appearance by 80's World Wrestling Champion sensation, Hulk Hogan. My personal favourite memory from this event will be the colourful, Mardi gras of costumed attendees crossing the pedestrian bridge back to the city after the end of the night – a sight not to be missed.

### **Gala Dinner – SkyCity Ballroom**

The Gala Dinner had a James Bond - Casino Royale Theme. To add to the atmosphere, Con Lapidis arranged for an Aston Marton to be parked in the foyer of the Convention Centre and dinner guests were greeted with a martini (shaken, not stirred) on arrival. The tables were decked out with chocolate casino chips, playing cards and a gift of a bottle of Prism gin for each guest. There were lucky door prizes including a night's accommodation at Eos, a gift voucher for RM Williams and a bottle of Penfold's Grange. The winner of the Denticare prize was also drawn on the evening. SkyCity went all out with the food and a selection of South Australia's finest wines were chosen by the Congress Organising Committee for the occasion.

An event of this magnitude doesn't happen without some meticulous planning – and the Congress Organising Committee worked on this for over three years. Thank you to my awesome team: Andrew Toms, Craig Dreyer, Maurice Meade, Richard Salmon, Simon Freezer, Andrew Tindall and Con Lapidis. Special thanks also to our professional Congress organiser, Lara Malcolm, Director of The Meeting People Pty, for her knowledge, diligence, and creative input. I would also like to thank our Sponsors and Congress exhibitors for their support and participation in the trade exhibition.

We look forward to seeing all attendees again at the 30th Australian Orthodontic Congress in Melbourne in May 2026.

### **Dr Melinda Barva**

Chair and Convenor, 29th Australian Orthodontic Congress



**Awards Ceremony: Dr Andrew Toms (outgoing President) Drs Nessa Finlay and Jenny Doan (ASOFRE Award winners), Dr Thomas Ethell (AOB Award Winner) and Dr Roslyn Mayne (ASO President).**



# 30th Australian Orthodontic Congress

The 30th Australian Orthodontic Congress will be held on 20-24 May 2026, in vibrant Melbourne. This landmark event promises cutting-edge insights, world-class speakers, and unparalleled networking opportunities. If you haven't already, mark your calendars now—this is the must-attend orthodontic event of 2026 that you won't want to miss!

Our Scientific Committee, led by Professor Marie Cornelis and Associate Professor Paolo Cattaneo, has already secured an impressive line-up of speakers including:

- Prof Sabine Ruf (University of Giessen, Germany)
- Prof Bernd Lapatki (University of Ulm, Germany)
- Dr Ambra Michelotti (University of Naples, Italy)

- Dr Renato Cocconi (Private practice, Italy)
- A/Prof Lucia Cevitanes (University of Michigan, USA)
- Prof Ama Johal (Queen Mary University of London)

Stay tuned for exciting updates in the coming months as we unveil more details.

## **Dr Chris Theodosi**

Chair, 30th Australian Orthodontic Congress

## **31th Australian Orthodontic Congress**

The 31th Australian Orthodontic Congress Organising Committee is excited to announce that the event will return to Sydney in 2028! More information will be distributed later in 2025.

# Australasian Orthodontic Board (AOB)

The self-reflective process and anonymous peer-review of contemporary, evidence-based, specialist clinical orthodontics in prospectively treated cases continues to provide Members with personalised and practical continuing professional development.

CPD credits are available to participants as well as assessors that provide anonymous feedback. As such, the AOB Cert postnominals continue to be widely recognised and sought by colleagues to publicly signify a commitment to specialist orthodontic education, excellence and review. Details on the streamlined digital process are available on the ASO Member website and are regularly updated.

This year, the AOB executive committee welcomed Dr Oyku Dalci and Dr Olivia Rogers. Together with Dr Tony Collett and myself, the Committee served and worked closely with the ASO staff, University Liaison Persons, National Convenors and Assessors to ensure that postgraduates and Members are on track with their cases, feedback and re-certification process. Additionally, Dr Dalci has recently taken over the role of Australasian Orthodontic Board representative for the Society for Orthodontic Specialty Certifying Board. This facilitating and standing committee of the World Federation of Orthodontists works closely with national orthodontic boards, certifying agencies, and organisations to promote board certification and protect the public and the specialty from unqualified practitioners.

To enhance member engagement and services, the Committee has recently developed an AOB presentation, which has been conducted at state branch meetings in collaboration with branch councils. Presentations were conducted in Victoria in August 2023 and in South Australia in November 2024, with a rescheduled presentation expected in New South Wales in 2025. While we are yet to present to

Members of QLD and WA, they are welcome to reach out for the more information.

The AOB Committee recognises the generosity, commitment and contributions of the following Convenors and University Liaisons for the 2024 calendar year:

- National Convenors: Drs Peter Grant, Guy Burnett, Carolyn Ng, Azza Al An and A/Prof Mike Razza
- University Liaisons: Dr Oyku Dalci (NSW), Professor Maurice Meade (SA), Dr Tony Collett (VIC), Ms Rachel Harvey (WA), Dr Fiona Firth (NZ) and Dr Arun Shailendran (QLD).

We also are very thankful to Dr Guy Burnett who has recently retired as a Convenor after many years of being part of the AOB and serving as Convenor and Assessor for both Members and Congress. A heartfelt thanks to the ASO Federal Council, CEO Kerstin Baas and her team for their ongoing support of the AOB, its endeavours and commitment to orthodontic excellence, education, and review.

The Committee invites Members, as experts in the art and science of orthodontics, to enquire, provide feedback and participate in the AOB, in whatever capacity they can. For those with limited resources, AOB member participation as an Assessor is an ad-hoc and low commitment option that provides practical professional development and insights with CPD credits. Contact details are available on the website or via your local AOB Convenor/University Liaison.

**Dr Carolyn Ng**  
Chair, AOB Committee

# Australasian Orthodontic Journal (AOJ)



The Australasian Orthodontic Journal has had another busy year throughout 2024.

With the assistance of the publisher, Sciendo, whose support has been well received, the journal has maintained a publishing rate that surpasses its hardcopy editions.

At the time of writing this report (January 2025), the journal has a manuscript acceptance rate of 25%. There are 8 submissions being reviewed and another 8 submissions requiring a reviewer response. In addition, there are 20 manuscripts out for author revision and the journal maintains a submission rate of 5 manuscripts a week. These figures change on a weekly basis but indicate that the journal is in a healthy position and receiving submissions mainly from the Middle East, the sub-continent and the Oceania regions.

During the year Dr Joseph Antoun stepped down as a Journal Board member and Associate Professor Peter Mei Li from the University of Otago joined the Board which maintained the New Zealand representation.

The publisher reviewed the journal's performance with the intention of applying for listing on the USA National Institute of Health database (PubMed). The review determined that there were still several aspects of the journal that needed improvement and included compliance with our open access licence. The journal has maintained its two issues per annum which is a hangover from the hardcopy days. From 2025, there will only be one

volume per year which will not be broken into issues and all published articles will be sequentially page numbered. In addition, there were some inconsistencies regarding the information provided for authors and reviewers which needs tidying. This will take time to correct so the PubMed application has been deferred.

The Journal's metrics have not yet been published for 2024 but are available on the Journal's webpage for 2023. According to the data, the Impact Factor has risen to 0.5 since the digital version of the Journal has been produced and the CiteScore has risen to 0.8. The CiteScore is a record of the number of times a Journal article has been cited by others. In addition, Journal articles have been downloaded approximately 1000 times during 2024. These figures are welcome and slowly increasing.

My role as the Editor will end at the end of 2025. Applications for a replacement have now closed and the Society will announce a new Editor in due course.

May I thank the ASO and the Journal Board for their support and input throughout the year and look forward to another year of successful publishing.

**Prof Craig Dreyer**  
Editor, AOJ

# Constitution & Policy Committee



In line with its strategic objectives, Council tasked the Constitution and Policy Committee with the review of the ASO Constitution, with particular emphasis on simplifying the membership structure.

Tenders were submitted to large and medium law firms in Canberra and Sydney including those dealt with on previous occasions.

There was unanimous agreement from tenderers that the ASO membership structure was too focussed on administrative procedure rather than being a governance based document as is increasingly required in the Not For Profit sector.

In person briefs were provided to members of the ASO NSW, VIC and SA branches in late 2024, with information also supplied to WA and QLD Councillors for dissemination at their clinical days in November 2024. [Video information](#) was also shared with all ASO members to explain the process.

Key factors in the Constitution upgrade are to preserve the existing relationship

between the Federal Body and the States. It is then intended that the Constitution and Policy Committee will offer assistance, both financial and legal, to all State Branches to bring their constitutions into line with the Federal documents.

Lawyers have developed documents in readiness for 2025 AGM which will be shared with ASO members as part of the AGM notification. If the motion to adopt the new Constitution is accepted by the ASO members, work will then continue to refine the ASO By-laws where administrative and procedural matters will provide guidance for Council and the ASO Head Office on day to day administrative matters. This will necessarily include bringing the ASO suite of Policies into line with the new Constitution and By-laws which will involve our Company Secretary who has extensive experience in this field.

**Dr Sam Whittle**

Chair, Constitution and Policy Committee



# Education Committee Report

The Education Committee was pleased to once again organise the important Post-Graduate meeting which will be held on 25-27 March, prior to the Foundation Meeting.

Solvantum (formerly known as 3M) is the primary corporate sponsor of the event and some social functions, while the ASO and the ASOFRE will support the team building exercise, and the networking event and reception with Federal Council and the ASOFRE Committee.

The overseas lecturer to present is Martyn Cobourne. He is a Professor of Orthodontics Hon Consultant in Orthodontics, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.

All Australian and New Zealand Universities are invited, and we look forward to this important event.

The following ADC Australian University Site visits are planned for 2025, and ADC assessors have been selected:

***University of Adelaide – Wednesday 30 July 2025***

***University of Sydney – Tuesday 12 August 2025***

***University of Melbourne – Tuesday 9 September 2025***

ASO representatives have been selected for site visits and to generate a follow-up ASO report.

The ASO Education Committee has requested a significantly reduced

registration fees for the AOC and Foundation meetings, which has already been taken into consideration by the ASOFRE and will be assessed for future congresses.

The Dental School Education Sub-Committee Chaired by Professor Marie Cornelis is attempting to create a baseline for Dental School Orthodontic Education and establish some uniformity within the Australian and New Zealand Dental Schools Orthodontic Education.

ASO Federal Council has established a Travel Bursary for Academics: The ASO provides a travel bursary as financial support for ASO academics. This benefit can be accessed if the academic's activity involves support and development of orthodontic education. The travel bursary is funded by the ASO's Foundation for Research and Education (FRE) which aims to promote and advance research and education in orthodontics. Detailed and practical conditions apply for application and receiving the ASO Travel Bursary for Academics.

Following the recommendation of the Education Committee, the ASO Federal Council has approved the formation of a Post-graduate Orthodontic Student Sub-Committee:

- Chair of this Subcommittee is an active member of the Education Committee.
- A post-graduate representative from each university forms the other members of the Subcommittee;
- The post-graduate representative from the ASO Council in current office is the lead student to liaise with the chair if needed and this position rotates with the state rotation of Council. This is to introduce the ASO structure at the student level for better continuity and understanding in future years.



- Post-graduates to liaise with Chair regarding their proposals for outside educators, still encouraging the students' independence in sourcing lecturers, with Chair's oversight.
- ASO HQ will support the subcommittee with administrative tasks (emailing, event template on ASO website portal, sponsorship contract templates etc).
- Organise speakers to present to the Post-graduate student over Zoom or Teams platform
- Set social media group for all Australian and New Zealand Post-graduate students
- Future possible other roles of this subcommittee may be assisting in the Foundation post-graduate meeting (traditionally known as the Post-Graduate Symposium). Mithran Goonewardene has shouldered this task over many years.

Many thanks go out to the members of the Education Committee, ASO Federal Council, ASOFRE Committee, ASO Secretariat, Kerstin Baas and to all the ASO members that support orthodontic education either by donation of their time in tutoring in graduate orthodontic education or dental education or donating to the ASOFRE.

I would also give a special mention to Associate Professor Paul Schneider, the long serving orthodontic educator at University of Melbourne, Dental School of 40 years. Paul is still contributing to Orthodontic education in other roles on behalf of the ASO.

**A/Prof Mike Razza**

Chairman, ASO Education Committee

# Finance Audit & 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 (FARC) during the year and extending my service for a further 2 years. The role of the FARC is to assist Federal Council to discharge its responsibilities in relation to oversight of the integrity and effectiveness of the ASO Inc.'s financial reporting, risk management, internal controls, and external audit.

During 2024, the FAR continued its drive of continued improvement in governance and process of reviewing critical policies and procedures of the ASO's operations, risk profile and financial reporting.

Some key achievements during 2024 include:

1. Management of financial planners; post the change of planners during 2023 to Ord Minnett, the FAR committee has been pleased with the overall performance of the fund manager, the advice provided to the Federal Council and the interaction with the ASO executive. The customer experience is now at a very high level with significant improvements in service and communications.
2. Risk management process enhancement and implementation including a risk analysis and risk matrix

3. Continued improvement of enhancing the ASO's Governance Charter including:
  - ◇ Review and enhancement of Corporate Governance Charter
  - ◇ Reviewing the Federal Council Charter
  - ◇ Reviewing the FAR Terms of Reference
  - ◇ Reviewing Foundation for Research and Education Committee (FRE) – Terms of Reference
  - ◇ Continued improvement to the Statement of Compliance & Assurance
  - ◇ Working closely with the executive and congress teams to ensure enhanced governance relating to congress management
  - ◇ ASOFRE Treasurer now invited to FAR meetings to continue the transparency and understanding of the FRE committee and improve collaboration across the committees
  - ◇ Continued work on the Policy & Procedures and Contracts register
4. Continued review of key suppliers such as the ASO's digital agency:
  - ◇ To ensure Return on Investment especially targeted campaigns for the Public Education Program
  - ◇ Enhanced customer experience and engagement on the Orthodontics Australia website

5. Go Live of new customer relationship management “CRM” software platform providing the following improvements:

- ◇ Reduced key person risk
- ◇ Operational efficiency as the system is integrated with the financial reporting system
- ◇ Customer experience improvement through integrated membership platform
- ◇ Various reporting enhancements

The financial statements present a true and fair view of the ASO and we appreciate the work of SDJA is undertaking the audit in an effective

and efficient manner. It has been a very positive year with still much to do.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Kerstin Baas and Kate Harris for the diligence, execution and assistance provided to the FARC to discharge our responsibilities. In addition, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the retiring Members of the committee, former Treasurer Simon Freezer, Kerry Shooter and Sam Whittle, and continuing Members Francis Wong (ASO Treasurer), Ray Te Moananu, (Treasurer-Elect), Marcus Tod and Gordon Cheung.

**Tom Milicevic**

Chair, Finance Audit & Risk Committee



# Cleft Lip & Palate Committee

I am delighted to take on the role of Chairperson for the Cleft Lip and Palate (CL&P) Committee, succeeding Dr Kit Chan. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Kit for her dedication and guidance during her time as Chair, as well as her invaluable support during my transition into this role.

For those who don't know me, I am based in South Australia and completed my postgraduate orthodontic training in Adelaide. Following this, I undertook a fellowship in cleft and craniofacial orthodontics at the world-renowned SickKids Hospital in Toronto, Canada. This experience not only deepened my expertise but also strengthened my passion for providing the best possible care for patients with cleft lip and palate.

Currently, I work alongside Dr Richard Salmon at the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide, where we manage most South Australia's cleft orthodontic cases.

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Our team is committed to delivering comprehensive, multidisciplinary care to ensure optimal outcomes for our patients.

One of my priorities as Chairperson is to foster collaboration and education within our orthodontic community. I am happy to be a point of contact for colleagues interested in pursuing further education in CL&P orthodontics. Additionally, I can assist anyone seeking guidance on navigating the Cleft and Craniofacial Medicare Scheme, which plays a critical role in supporting families and practitioners involved in cleft care.

I will be in Hobart for the upcoming Foundation Meeting and encourage you to reach out. Please feel free to say hello, whether it's to discuss CL&P orthodontics or simply to connect. Building a strong, supportive network is essential as we work together to advance cleft and craniofacial care in Australia.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to serve as Chairperson, and I look forward to collaborating with all of you in the year ahead.

**Dr Sven Jensen**  
Chair, CL&P Committee



# Give a Smile (GAS)

Give a Smile (GAS) was proud to be one of the exhibitors at the 29TH Australian Orthodontic Congress, held in Adelaide in March 2024. Members had the opportunity to visit our stall to ask any questions, sign-up, or simply say hello.

On Saturday, 16 March, we celebrated the “Give a Smile T-shirt Day”, featuring a competition and prizes. I was also honoured to give a presentation during the congress and to launch the latest GAS promotional video.

[WATCH GAS VIDEO](#)



Later in 2024, GAS was invited to the ASOWA Clinical Weekend in Margaret River. Hearing local GAS “Smile Stories” from the GAS WA orthodontists was truly inspiring. Following the event, we saw an immediate boost in new WA orthodontists both joining the program, along with more patients being selected.

Each year, GAS continues to grow, showcasing the benevolence of the ASO Members nationwide each year – 2024 was no exception. Thank you to all Members, and their teams, involved in supporting and participating in GAS. The cause is made special by everyone’s generous efforts!

**Dr Jonathan Rooke**  
Chair, Give a Smile

*“An act of human generosity is defined as giving of your time and energy and expecting nothing in return.”*

**Simon Sinek**



# Awards: Honorary Life Members

**1961** W Stanley Wilkinson

**1964** A Thornton Taylor

**1966** Sir K T Adamson CMG

**1966** P R Begg AO

**1966** B L Rosenstengel

**1972** V P Webb

**1974** J B Moffatt

**1974** R Y Norton OBE

**1989** B Mollenhauer

**1993** G I Brown

**1993** L M Smart AM

**1993** M R Sims AO

**1995** J F Reading

**1997** R F H Rickleman

**1998** W J Mackie

**2000** T J Freer AM

**2000** R G Henry OAM

**2002** B W Lee

**2003** B D Bowden

**2004** J K Hawkins AM RFD

**2004** B W Phillips

**2004** D T Taylor OAM

**2005** R G Cook AM

**2006** G R Dickinson

**2008** B I Watson AM RFD

**2009** E C Crawford AM

**2009** R J Olive AM RFD

**2011** M Harkness

**2012** J R Owen AM

**2013** C C Twelftree OAM

**2014** F S Fryer OAM

**2014** W Sampson AM

**2015** D J Fuller

**2015** M S Goonewardene

**2016** H D McLean AM

**2016** S R Langford

**2017** J M Razza

**2021** D I Vickers

**2021** A M Shields

**2021** C W Dreyer

**2022** J E Coolican AM

**2023** A R Collett

**2023** P J Hannan

**2024** S R Freezer

# Recipients of Imperial & Australian Honours

Sir K.T. Adamson CMG (Dec'd)

P.R. Begg AO (Dec'd)

J.E. Coolican AM

R.G. Cook AM (Dec'd)

E.C. Crawford AM

T.J. Freer AM

J. P. Fricker OAM

F.S. Fryer OAM

K. Godfrey AM

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A.G. Parker OAM (Dec'd)

M.R. Sims AO (Dec'd)

L.M. Smart AM (Dec'd)

D.T. Taylor OAM (Dec'd)

C.C. Twelftree AM

B. I. Watson AM RFD

V.C. West AM

## Distinguished Service Award

**1989** G I Brown

**1989** G D Kirkness

**1989** B Mollenhauer

**1989** A G Parker OAM

**1989** R G Henry OAM

**1989** J F Reading

**1989** R F H Rickleman

**2003** V C West AM

**2005** R H Hay

**2005** A G Parker OAM

**2008** M A Darendeliler

**2008** M S Goonewardene

**2008** W J Sampson AM

**2008** M G Woods

**2009** D J Fuller

**2009** P J Hannan

**2010** A J Amitage

**2010** D T Taylor OAM

**2011** D L Vickers

**2012** J Cameron

**2012** A R Collett

**2013** J L Curtain

**2013** D J O'Donoghue

**2014** G J Moore

**2014** H Wasilewsky

**2015** J M Razza

**2015** A M Shields

**2015** P D Hanrahan

**2016** R T James

**2016** C W Dreyer

**2017** J E Coolican AM

**2018** E Peel

**2018** C K Chan

**2021** M L Reichstein

**2022** C J Nelson

**2022** P M Schneider

**2023** S Greenway

**2024** E Freer

# Meritorious Service Award

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**1996** D R Hellstrom

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**1996** J H Chapman

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# Meritorious Service Award (Non-Members)

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**2012** Dr Charles Burstone

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**2012** Dr Lyle Johnstone Jr.

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**2012** Dr Bill Profitt

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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 2024

Nominations for the 2024 ASO Awards were considered by the Committee at its 19 November, 2023 teleconference meeting to consider amongst other things the finalisation of the 2024 Awards.

**Dr F Shane Fryer**  
Chair, Awards and  
Honours Committee

# Federal Council



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**Thank you to  
all those who  
generously give of  
their time to serve  
on ASO committees**

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1953-56	A Thornton Taylor	RY Norton	R W Halliday
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1961-64	K F Henderson	J F S McGibbon	EA Barham
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1972-74	J F Reading	W J Mackie	R G Henry
1974-77	R F H Rickleman	D E Robertson	D J O'Donoghue
1977-78	J F S McGibbon	TYW Lam	F B Dignam
1978-80	LA Trotter	PA Heagney	R G Cook
1980-82	GI Brown	S Kuusk	PT Burgess
1982-84	B D Bowden	EC Crawford	G R Dickinson
1984-87	R G Henry	PW Kline	DP Kinsella
1987-89	SP Paul	BI McKenna	D Patrikios
1989-91	R G Cook	G Brudenall	PA Heagney
1991-93	B Phillips	BI Watson	MAC Nugent
1993-96	G R Dickinson	J L Curtain	AJ Armitage
1996-98	D T Taylor	J E Coolican	RH Hay
1998-00	R J Olive	BF Sullivan	PD Ferguson
2000-02	JR Owen	P J Southall	SL Singer
2002-04	BI Watson	S R Langford	SR Freezer
2004-06	E C Crawford	DJ Fuller	I G Lavrin
2006-08	A M Shields	P J Hannan	CJ Nelson
2008-10	F S Fryer	M Cordato	T P Baisi
2010-12	J M Razza	C Sim	E C Daniels
2012-14	S R Langford	A P Toms	S R Freezer
2014-16	A R Collett	C Theodosi	R Schwartz
2016-18	P J Lewis	J E Coolican	S L Whittle
2018-20	P J Hannan	M A Tod	R D Vautin
2020-22	H D Holmes	E C Daniels	P D Munt
2022-24	A P Toms	M J Maurice	S R Freezer

