Leonard Crocombe

Dr Leonard Crocombe’s background has been as private dental practitioner in rural and regional areas of Australia and as the State Dental Coordinator of the Tasmanian Dental Service. He has seen the poor oral health of rural Australians and of health care card holders first-hand and the affect it has on their lives. He understands that ‘throwing more money’ at the problem to improve access to dental care is not sustainable in the longer term and that any interventions need to be cost-effective. Hence, he completed a PhD in 2009 in oral health outcomes in the leading oral epidemiology research centre in Australia (ARCPOH) to obtain the necessary research skills to improve community rural oral health. In the relatively short time since then have published over 15 papers in peer-reviewed journals, presented at over 25 conferences, drafted over 30 submissions and reports.

Dr Crocombe is a Chief Investigator with the Centre for Research Excellence in Primary Oral Health Care: a collaboration between the Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health and the School of Dentistry at the University of Adelaide; the University Department of Rural Health and the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania at the University of Tasmania, the School of Dentistry at The University of Western Australia and the Centre for Health Economics at Monash University and the South Australian Dental Service. He is also the dental consultant AITEC Corporate Education and Consulting who are responsible for the administration and curriculum delivery of the Voluntary Dental Graduate Year Program.

His main area of research interest is into the inequity in oral health outcomes between people who live in rural areas compared to metropolitan areas.