Colin Endean

Colin Endean is a dentist working in private dental practice, in the public dental sector and in remote Aboriginal communities in SA and WA. He began his journey to remote Indigenous communities and practice in remote primary oral care in 1985 and has remained engaged and committed to improving oral health for all.

He has worked as a dentist for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) for over 28 years, firstly for the Nganampa Health Council on the APY Lands of SA, thence for the Ngaanyatjarra Health Council on the Ngaanyatjarra Lands of WA, and for the last seven years for the Tullawon Health Service (THS) in Yalata, SA. Since 2010 Colin has been involved with establishing an outreach dental program for the Kakarrara Willurrara Health Alliance (KWHA-East-West Health Alliance), an alliance connecting the small ACCHS of Oak Valley (SA) and Tjuntjuntjara (WA) and extending services and developing programs with the THS.

Through this work with the KWHA and the extensive years of dental service delivery in much of the remote regions of SA and WA, Colin has developed an understanding of what Closing the Gap might really mean for oral health in the context of these remote Aboriginal communities.

Colin has also worked with Adelaide University and the Menzies School of Health Research on the Strong Teeth for Little Kids project that has provided insights and opportunities for early intervention and prevention of early childhood caries (ECC).

Colin has been a co-author on the papers that have been published from the Strong Teeth for Little Kids study and as a lead author of ‘Anangu oral health: the status of the Indigenous population of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara lands’ (Aust J Rural Health 2004, 12, 99–103) and presented at the 2001 National Rural Health Conference, Canberra.