



HELLENE PLATELL

Western Australia

08 - 10 - 1982

Positions held with ADOHTA Branches

1974 - 1975: DTAWA Librarian
1976 - 1982: DTAWA President
1982 - Present: WA Conference
Committee
2000 - 2009: DTHAWA
President

Positions held with ADOHTA National Council

1996: WA National
Representative
1997 - 2000: National Secretary
2009 - 2015: WA National
Representative
2016 - 2018: National President
2019 - Present: WA National
Rep
2019 - Present: Immediate
National Past President

What was the most significant change within the profession during your involvement with ADOHTA?

Removal of the clause "under the supervision of a dentist" from the Dental Act was a defining moment when our profession was finally recognised for the autonomous delivery of treatment and education we have always provided for our patients.

With the Scope of Practice changes that are to take effect in early July 2020, an opportunity to advocate for further acknowledgement of services we provide will be actioned in our bid to gain Provider Numbers.

Your most memorable ADOHTA moment:

The signing of an MOU with 5 countries to form the International Oral Health Therapy Association (IOHA) in April 2019. I attended as a proxy for our current President Leticia Masters. In front of an audience of 1000 delegates and presenters in Malaysia, this document was signed and recorded amidst much pomp and ceremony.



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Any other information important to ADOHTA's History:

Dental therapy in WA was the first course in the world to be offered in a tertiary institution, Curtin University (formerly WAIT). Starting in 1971, graduates were the first to be able to work in both public and private dental clinics.

Celebrating 50 years of dental therapy in WA in 2021.



Brief Outline of your career and achievements:

I have worked in numerous clinical settings since 1974. These include the school dental service and private practices in Prosthodontics, Orthodontics, Periodontics and General Dentistry. I have also worked with Curtin University since 1975 as a sessional academic in the dental therapy, dental hygiene and oral health therapy courses.

Working in the field has been invaluable in understanding what treatment graduates are expected to perform and being able to tailor clinical teaching to help produce competent, confident clinicians and patient educators.

I still work in private general practice and as a university educator.

