

**Date:**

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**Subject**

Business Booming at NIB Dental Care Centre

Business is booming at NIB's Dental Care Centre in Hunter St, Newcastle.

Twelve months after accepting its first patient, demand for services at the Dental Care Centre is now supporting 23 full-time and part-time employees, according to NIB's Director of Dental Services, Dr "Jake" Jarrett.

"The number of people electing to take advantage of first class dental care services at competitive prices is actually greater than our projections. We have provided over 50,000 services in our first year," Dr Jarrett said.

"This is not only providing employment and training opportunities for the Hunter, but has also brought state-of-the-art equipment and technology to the region."

"The Dental Care Centre initially opened in January this year with four dental surgeries and two dentists.

"Because of growing demand from both NIB members and non-members, we are now operating eight surgeries with eight dentists and we are very confident that this growth will continue throughout 1999."

Dr Jarrett said the Dental Care Centre was providing preventative, general and some specialist dental services, and hoped to expand the range of services offered during 1999.

"NIB members are not charged for diagnostic and preventative treatment, which is a decision taken by NIB to encourage better levels of dental health across the region," Dr Jarrett said.

"We believe this is most important in the younger members of the community, and these holidays do provide parents with a good opportunity to have their child's teeth checked before they return to school."

The NIB Dental Care Centre incorporates the latest in digital imaging technology, the first dental facility in the region to do so.

The technology provides benefits not only to the centre, but to patients and the environment.

It reduces exposure to radiation by up to 80%, enables patients to participate in their diagnosis and treatment planning and eliminates the need for chemicals used in film development solutions.

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