



## **Vietnam-Australia oral health symposium**

Oral health professionals have gathered in Melbourne to discuss collaborations in Vietnam and Australian oral health.

Dr John Rogers, conference chair and researcher with the Oral Health CRC, said while there are many differences between the two countries, the oral health issues faced are remarkably similar.

“Tooth decay affects over 50% of six year olds in both countries”, Dr Rogers said.

“The approaches to dealing with these oral health problems are similar – we all seek to prevent oral disease and manage existing conditions in a timely and quality fashion.”

Vietnamese keynote speakers at the conference included A/Professor Trinh Dinh Hai and Dr Ngo Dong Khanh.

“Dr Hai and Dr Khanh were generous in sharing their thoughts on future collaborations that could benefit both Australia and Vietnam,” said Dr Rogers.

“In particular, there is a need for collaboration on a new national oral health survey for Vietnam, and supporting student exchange between the two countries.”

Dr Rogers said that there are a number of general health programs being run by Australian organisations in Vietnam, that have valuable information for oral health practitioners.

“We were fortunate to have speakers including Professor Garry Warne from the Royal Children’s Hospital International, Professor Harry Minas from the Centre for International Mental Health and Professor Nick Crofts from the Nossal Institute for Global Health”.

“A focus on oral health including disease prevention and early intervention has flow-on effects to the general well-being of the population,” said Dr Rogers.

“There is a history of excellent achievements in existing collaborations between Vietnamese and Australian health professionals. Learning from existing projects will help us to develop future initiatives with mutual benefit for both countries.”