

# Everyday Australians lending a hand and building prosthetic hands

## *Helping mine victims all over the world*

Everyday Australians are now able to build prosthetic hands and help victims of landmines, all over the world.

Organisational Psychologist, Matt Henricks of Henricks Consulting is bringing a new form of team building to Australia. The 'Helping Hands' project is one of the first of its kind in Australia and is a very unique way for both companies and Not For Profit Organisations to not only work on their team dynamics, but also help landmine victims in less developed countries, who would not normally be able to afford prosthetic hands.

With over 100 million active landmines in 60 countries, there are around 2,000 landmine accidents per month (one every 20 minutes). There are currently 300,000 landmine related amputees globally and 20% of these are children, who have lost hands, meaning the need for prosthetics hands is growing.

Rather than traditional team building activities where participants enjoy an activity on the day and then walk away with a binder, the Helping Hands project leaves behind a lasting legacy. It does this by allowing co-workers to build artificial hands together, which are then distributed to less fortunate people around the world.

"Everyday companies across Australia are spending enormous amounts of money on team building activities. With this activity, participants leave a legacy and literally change the life of someone on the other side of the globe.

"Co-workers are normally blown away by the fact that within only a short period of focused activity they can, as a team, change the life of someone less fortunate, in Africa for example", said Matt Henricks, Director, Henricks Consulting.

During the activity, small groups of people assemble 30 pieces of plastic and metal to make a genuine hand which gives someone else the gift of being able to grasp or pick up an object.

Once the activity is completed, all hands are shipped to a quality control unit in the US to ensure that they are indeed built properly. A range of checks are performed and once the prosthetic hand has passed inspection it is shipped to the area where it is most needed. Give someone else, somewhere in the world, a hand. Build them a



hand, with your hands.

For further information please contact Jothy Hughes from N O W! Communications on 0423 491 808 or [jothy@nowcommunications.net](mailto:jothy@nowcommunications.net).

## Teenagers – Hop on for a dental check-up after Easter

**Teenagers will have something to smile about after Easter thanks to the Medicare Teen Dental Plan.**

The plan provides eligible teenagers with up to \$163.05 towards a dental check-up this year – just the thing after indulging over Easter.

More than a million eligible teenagers were sent vouchers earlier this year.

Teenagers aged 12–17 years who are enrolled in Medicare and receive certain government payments, individually or as part of a family, may be eligible.

Department of Human Services General Manager Hank Jongen said that since the Teen Dental Plan was introduced in 2008, it has helped thousands of families with the cost of dental health.

"The Teen Dental Plan has provided over 1.5 million dental checks to eligible teenagers since it was introduced," Mr Jongen said.

"We all tend to have a few too many chocolates at Easter, so there's no better time to remember good dental health."

The dental check-up may include a scale and clean, x-rays, sealing of pits and cracks in a tooth (fissure sealing), fluoride treatment, oral hygiene instruction and dietary advice.

Mr Jongen urged teenagers to contact the department if they have lost their vouchers or haven't received one and believe they might be eligible.

For more information about the Medicare Teen Dental Plan and eligibility requirements, go to [humanservices.gov.au](http://humanservices.gov.au) or call 132 011.

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