

Rural Health Pathways

SHOWCASE

Promoting study and careers in medicine, nursing & allied health

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Keynote Speaker: Dr Rand Younes

Dr Rand Younes is a Sydney-based dentist, healthcare entrepreneur, educator and oral-health advocate committed to improving access to dental care for children and communities experiencing barriers to conventional services. She is the founder of Pearly Mobile Dental and Head Dentist at Smile Collective Dental Couture in Roselands, New South Wales.

Through Pearly, she leads a mobile model of care that brings fully equipped dental clinics, oral-health education, preventive services and treatment directly to schools, childcare centres and aged-care facilities across New South Wales and Queensland. Pearly reports working with more than 750 education and care facilities across the four states.

Of Palestinian heritage, Dr Younes migrated to Australia with her family at the age of 11, speaking very little English. Through determination and a strong commitment to education, she became dux of her school, achieved an ATAR of 99 and ranked second in New South Wales for English. Her experience of beginning a new life in Australia, together with her later dental training in rural New South Wales, helped shape her belief that a child's background, location or family circumstances should not determine their access to healthcare.

At just 17, Dr Younes began the oral-health education initiative that would become Impact Mobile Dental Services, now known as Pearly. Before she was old enough to drive or formally register the business herself, she travelled by bus or with her mother to schools and childcare centres, delivering presentations centred on her guiding principle that prevention is the foundation of lifelong oral health. While studying dentistry at Charles Sturt University in Orange, she witnessed the difficulties faced by regional and vulnerable communities in obtaining timely dental care and began developing a service that would take healthcare directly to them.

Dr Younes earned her Bachelor of Dental Science from Charles Sturt University. During her dental studies, she received a National First Prize from the Australian Endodontic Society for her research into the prevention and management of discolouration in endodontically treated teeth. Her professional development has also included postgraduate qualifications in Prosthodontics and Dentofacial Aesthetics, complementing her interests in restorative, aesthetic and patient-centred dentistry.

Following her graduation, Dr Younes worked in private dental practices while continuing to develop her mobile-care model. In 2022, she established Smile Collective Dental Couture in south-west Sydney, creating a multidisciplinary practice focused on high-quality general, restorative and aesthetic dental care. She currently serves as the practice's Principal Dentist while continuing to lead Pearly's community-based programs.

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Under her leadership, Pearly has grown from a school-based education program into a mobile dental organisation delivering examinations, cleans, fluoride treatments, fissure sealants, restorations, emergency assistance and specialist referrals. Its clinicians also provide age-appropriate oral-health education designed to make healthy habits understandable, positive and sustainable. According to her official Australian of the Year profile, Pearly has reached more than 150,000 children and provided dental treatment to more than 40,000 children.

Beyond clinical dentistry, Dr Younes is a motivational speaker and educator who uses her personal journey to encourage young people to value education, resilience, health and purposeful goal-setting. Her wider educational work has included programs combining oral-health awareness with wellbeing, confidence, values and practical life skills.

In recognition of her contribution to children's health and community-based dentistry, Dr Younes was selected as one of four 2026 NSW Young Australian of the Year nominees in the Young Australian category. Her official Australian of the Year profile also recognises her as Australia's youngest dental clinic owner and the youngest recipient of the global Top 100 Doctors award.

Dr Younes' long-term vision is to reach and empower one million smiles by 2030. Through dentistry, education and entrepreneurship, she continues to champion a prevention-first approach in which high-quality oral healthcare is compassionate, accessible and delivered where people need it most.

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