

## NORTH SHORE KIDS GIVE THUMBS UP TO NEW MOBILE SMILE UNIT

March 2013



**Secondary school students on Auckland's North Shore are some of the first to benefit from a brand new, state of the art mobile dental clinic, which is providing free dental treatment at schools around the Auckland region.**

The Mobile Smile unit, run by New Zealand's leading dental provider, [Lumino The Dentists](http://lumino.co.nz), hit the road in January 2013. It provides high quality dental treatment, free of charge, as part of the [Government's Oral Health programme](http://www.govt.nz/government/health-programmes)<sup>i</sup>.

With two separate self contained surgeries, x-ray facilities and a waiting area, the Mobile Smile unit is leading the way in patient care, comfort and privacy. Keeping teenagers entertained was also taken into consideration when the unit was developed, with a TV playing DVDs in the waiting room, and music systems in each surgery.

The Mobile Smile unit visits a school for an average of 20 days at a time. While most kids will be sent on their way after passing their dental check up, some may need more advanced treatment, including treatment of oral disease, restorative dental services and minor surgical services.

Marketing manager at Lumino The Dentists, Kerry Dunphy, said: "By bringing these free dental services to the schools, via the Lumino Mobile Smile unit, we're making it easier for students to have access to the free dental care that they need.



“New Zealand doesn’t exactly have a stellar record for youth uptake on these dental free services – currently 30% of all students who are eligible for this free dental treatment are not enrolled to receive it. This equates to 25,000 kids across Auckland. At Lumino, we’re doing our best to combat this.”

The Mobile Smile unit is one of three Lumino Mobile dental units currently in service in Auckland. In 2012, the mobile units visited 30 schools across the region and treated more than 12,000 students (aged between 13 and 17 years) for free.

Lumino The Dentists has been providing [mobile dental services to schools](#) on the North Shore for over 10 years. The new Mobile Smile unit replaces a bus, which was converted into a mobile dental clinic and was in service from 2003 to December 2012.

Currently, the Mobile Smile units visit 30 schools in Auckland, as well as additional schools further north in Kaipara and Whangaparoa. Nearly 12,000 students are expected to receive check ups at a Lumino Mobile Smile unit this year.

ENDS

**Further Information:**

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**About Lumino The Dentists:**

Lumino is New Zealand's largest dental healthcare provider with 74 high-quality practices spanning both the North and South Islands.

Our aim is to offer the highest standard of dental healthcare to New Zealanders, no matter where they live, through our growing family of skilled practitioners.

We are passionate about providing you with premium-quality dentistry. Our highly qualified general dentists, hygienists, clinical technicians and dental assistants have the skills and resources to provide an extensive range of dental services to all ages.

To find out more about Lumino The Dentists, visit [www.lumino.co.nz](http://www.lumino.co.nz)

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<sup>i</sup> The Ministry of Health funds oral health care to adolescents up to the age of 18 years, as it seeks to improve the uptake of oral health care by adolescents and to increase the level of preventive oral health care in New Zealand.

Any New Zealand resident, aged 18 years or under, can access the free dental programme by enrolling with a provider of adolescent dental services. Once enrolled, every adolescent is entitled to have at least one examination by a Dentist or Dental Therapist every 12 months and will be offered any necessary treatment or referral for more specialised treatment.