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Media release

Auckland special school wins NZ's first inclusive oral health competition

Students at Somerville Special School in Auckland have taken top prizes in New Zealand's first World Oral Health Day colouring competition designed for children with additional needs.

The New Zealand Dental Association (NZDA) visited the school this morning to present awards to students from two winning classes.

Angel Soeth, a student in the Tripoli 10 class, won the individual prize. Both Tripoli 10 and Benghazi 2 received class prizes, including Colgate oral health packs for students and an electric toothbrush for each teacher.

Labour's Disability Issues spokesperson Priyanca Radhakrishnan joined local MP Jenny Salesa at the awards assembly.

NZDA Board President Dave Excell says the competition reflects a gap the Association wanted to close.

"Children at specialist schools deserve the same recognition and the same focus on their oral health as anyone else. This competition was a small step, but an important one."

Teachers Linda Lal and Mohammed Farook drove their students' entries to NZDA House in Auckland to ensure the work arrived in good condition.

The winners will be announced across NZDA's social channels and featured in the July edition of NZDA News.

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