



**Innovator: Dr Mark Wotherspoon**  
**Innovation: Dr Mark's HyGenie**

Dentist and innovator Dr Mark Wotherspoon has conceived, designed and is now in the development stage of a simple all-in-one handheld device that cleans, stores and protects all manner of removable dental appliances.

Tough, durable and affordable, the device comprises a perforated casing that encloses a purpose-designed 'cluster' of 10 brushes that simultaneously scrubs and washes all surfaces of the appliance using a manual rotary action under running tap water. Dr Wotherspoon

has also developed a dental appliance-specific sanitising liquid that thoroughly cleans and will even dissolve existing calculus and stains with regular use.

"There's a lot of science that clearly links poor oral hygiene to oral and systemic disease," says Dr Wotherspoon. "Dirty sports mouthguards have been connected to sports-induced asthma. As dentists we've all seen the lack of care and hygiene."

Dr Wotherspoon attributes his innovative thinking to his engineer father, Gordon. "He's not only incredibly resourceful but stubborn and determined and never gives up," says Dr Wotherspoon. "Those traits have definitely rubbed off onto me."

Comprehensive consumer and clinical trials commenced last month and Dr Wotherspoon expects to have the Dr Mark's brand launched onto the Australian market early next year.

It's been a four-year journey to get Dr Mark's HyGenie to this point. "To start with an idea and end up with a product ready for consumer and clinical trials is not an experience I can easily put into words," he says.

"It would have been close to impossible without my business partners Steve Plakotaris and Philip Wass." **Bite**