

Why not consider a career in Dentistry?



Australian Dental
Association
NSW Branch

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Is this you?

- ▶ Interested in healthcare
- ▶ Like helping people
- ▶ Enjoy working with your hands
- ▶ Like working as part of a team
- ▶ Have good concentration
- ▶ Enjoy talking to lots of different people
- ▶ Good organiser
- ▶ Enjoy continually learning new things...



... If so, you could
enjoy a career in dentistry.



You could be a:

- ▶ Dental Assistant
- ▶ Practice Manager
- ▶ Dental Hygienist
- ▶ Oral Health Therapist
- ▶ Dental Prosthetist
- ▶ Dental Therapist
- ▶ Dentist
- ▶ Dental Technician





Dental Assistant

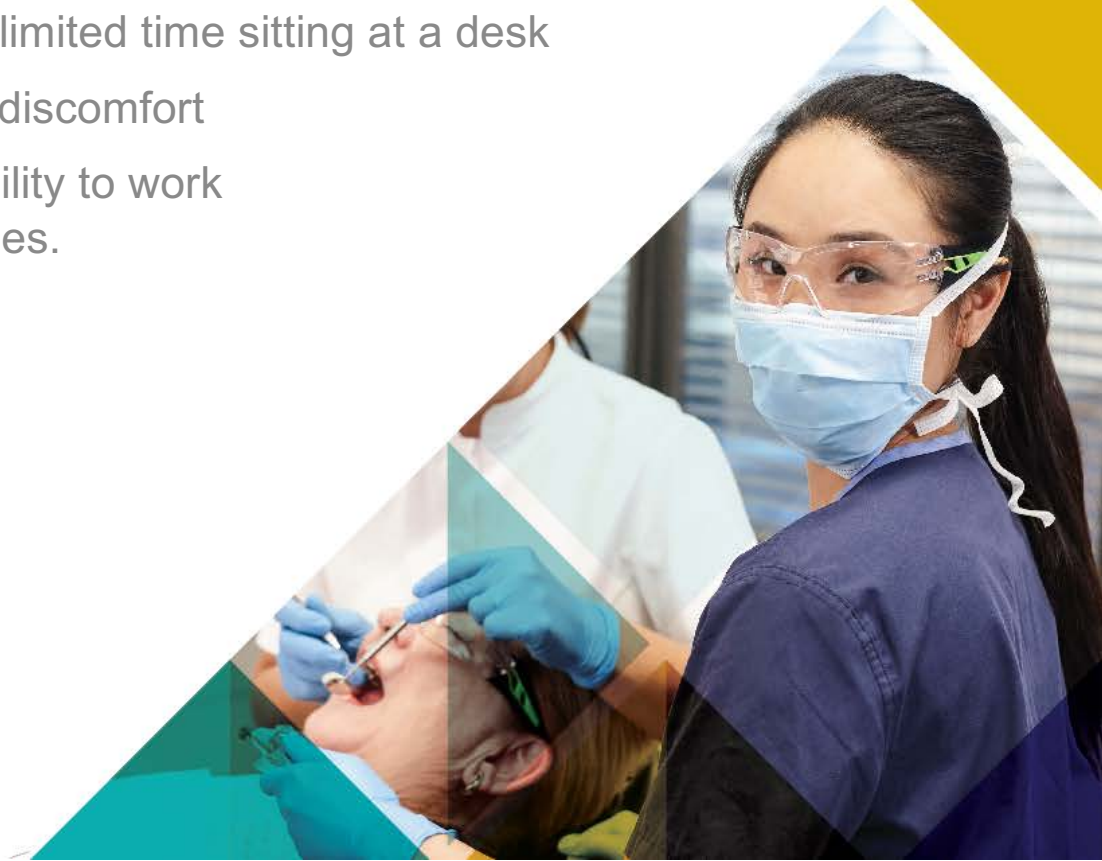
What does a Dental Assistant do?

- ▶ Assists dentists during clinical treatment
- ▶ Greets patients and helps put them at ease
- ▶ Prepares the dental surgery and dental materials
- ▶ Carries out infection control procedures such as sterilising equipment
- ▶ Updates patient records, processes x-rays and carries out other administrative duties
- ▶ With advanced training, Dental Assistants can:
 - Take x-rays and other clinical dental imaging
 - Deliver oral hygiene instruction and diet counselling.



Advantages of being a Dental Assistant

- ▶ Working in a varied and interesting job
- ▶ Working as part of a close-knit team
- ▶ Having an active hands-on role with limited time sitting at a desk
- ▶ Helping to relieve people's pain and discomfort
- ▶ Highly transportable skills with an ability to work all over Australia and in other countries.



How to become a Dental Assistant

On the job training for dental assisting can be provided.
Formal training options include a Certificate III and IV in dental assisting.

Where can you go from there?

- ▶ Complete a Certificate IV or Diploma of Practice Management to become a Practice Manager
- ▶ Complete a 3-year Bachelor of Oral Health degree to become an Oral Health Therapist, Dental Therapist or Dental Hygienist
- ▶ Move into product sales in the dental industry
- ▶ Teach Dental Assistant courses
- ▶ Travel: Use your qualification on a working holiday.





Practice Manager



What does a Practice Manager do?

- ▶ Coordinates appointments and administration for dental office efficiency
- ▶ Manages dental clinic staff and operations
- ▶ Bills patients, organises appointments, manages patient records
- ▶ Markets the practice by, for example, updating the website and sending out e-newsletters
- ▶ Sometimes a practice manager may also undertake other roles in the dental clinic including reception or assisting duties.



Advantages of being a Practice Manager

- ▶ Varied and interesting role
- ▶ Good training in running a business and organising people
- ▶ Can move into administration in other areas of healthcare
- ▶ Working as part of a close-knit team
- ▶ Working with people and helping to put them at ease.



How to become a Practice Manager

Opportunities for formal training as a Practice Manager include a Certificate IV or Diploma of Practice Management.

Where can you go from there?

- ▶ Complete a 3-year Bachelor of Oral Health degree to become an oral health therapist, dental therapist or dental hygienist
- ▶ Move into other administrative or office management roles in the healthcare sector or beyond
- ▶ Teach Practice Management courses
- ▶ Travel: Use your qualification on a working holiday.





Dental Hygienist Dental Technician Dental Therapist

What does a Dental Hygienist do?

- ▶ Provides preventative treatment to children and adults, including scaling, cleaning and polishing teeth
- ▶ Takes and interprets x-rays
- ▶ Takes impressions and makes dental models
- ▶ Provides fluoride treatment as well as other dental medicaments
- ▶ Constructs mouthguards and other dental appliances
- ▶ Provides oral health advice and diet counselling.



What does a Dental Technician do?

- ▶ Works in a laboratory, constructing, repairing and adjusting dental appliances
- ▶ Works with dentists to fabricate items such as dentures, crowns, bridges, orthodontic appliances, mouthguards and sleep appliances
- ▶ Works with various materials including wax, metal, plaster and ceramics
- ▶ Works with dental prosthetists and dentists, but has no direct contact with patients.



What does a Dental Therapist do?

- ▶ May have a teaching role, working with other healthcare providers
- ▶ Collaborates with and refers patients to dentists
- ▶ Provides dental examinations, oral cancer and tooth decay screenings and saliva testing for young people
- ▶ Fills and extracts teeth, administers injections and cleans teeth and gums
- ▶ Takes and interprets x-rays and makes impressions of the teeth for plaster study models and mouthguard construction
- ▶ Educates young people and their parents about oral healthcare.



Advantages of being a Dental Hygienist, Oral Health Therapist or Dental Therapist

- ▶ Working independently in a varied, interesting and skilled role, and also working as part of a team
- ▶ Using clinical, teaching and customer service skills
- ▶ Relieving people's pain and discomfort.



How to become a Dental Hygienist, Oral Health Therapist or Dental Therapist

You will need to complete a full-time Bachelor degree available at several universities in metropolitan and regional Australia. These are usually three years in duration.

Where can you go from there?

- ▶ A Bachelor degree can be used for entry into a postgraduate dental degree
- ▶ Move into education, research, community work or administration in the oral health or healthcare sectors
- ▶ Work overseas.





Dentist

What does a Dentist do?

Patient care

- ▶ Performs dental examinations, provides diagnoses and creates treatment plans to address patient concerns
- ▶ Provides dental treatment such as restoring teeth, surgery including extractions, periodontal care for gum disease, replacement of missing teeth, diagnosing pathology and managing oral health in patients with systemic disease
- ▶ Depending on capabilities, provides more specialised dental care
- ▶ Educates patients on how to prevent oral health problems by teaching skills such as how to brush the teeth and make positive diet choices
- ▶ Prescribes medications and refers patients to other health practitioners including specialists.



What else does a Dentist do?

- ▶ Processes and interprets x-rays
- ▶ Provides education on dental care to the public
- ▶ Maintains concise, complete and accurate patient dental records
- ▶ Supervises the rest of the team and is responsible for leading the team in delivering oral health services
- ▶ Continually educates himself or herself and upgrades skills.



How to become a Dentist

Dentists require a degree to enable them to be registered to practice; there are 11 universities in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji that offer dental training. Some universities require a first degree prior to undertaking a dental training course.

Where can you go from there?

- ▶ Teach dentistry or become an academic
- ▶ Specialise in a chosen area of dentistry such as endodontics (focusing on the teeth)
- ▶ Create and deliver educational programs or get on the speaker circuit
- ▶ Work in remote areas of Australia or overseas in the community aid or public health sectors.



Other Dental Careers

Dental Technician



What does a Dental Technician do?

- ▶ Works in a laboratory, constructing, repairing and adjusting dental appliances
- ▶ Translates two-dimensional diagrams into three-dimensional products such as dentures, implants, mouthguards and crowns
- ▶ Works with various materials including wax, metal, plaster and ceramics
- ▶ Works with dental prosthetists and dentists, but has no direct contact with patients.

Works with dentists to fabricate items such as dentures, crowns, bridges, orthodontic appliances, mouthguards and sleep appliances.



Advantages of being a Dental Technician

- ▶ Working with professionals in a scientific environment
- ▶ Working in a varied and interesting job using both scientific and artistic skills
- ▶ Ability to construct dental appliances without the patient being present leading to increased time flexibility with fabrication processes.



How to become a Dental Technician

It is recommended that you complete a two-year Diploma in Dental Technology at TAFE or other accredited institution.

Where can you go from there?

- ▶ Study further to become a prosthetist, therapist or dentist
- ▶ Move into other areas of prostheses construction such as post-cancer surgery reconstruction.





Dental Prosthetist

What does a Dental Prosthetist do?

- ▶ Consults with dentists and patients on constructing and maintaining removable appliances such as dentures and mouthguards
- ▶ Performs oral health assessments and dental examinations on patients
- ▶ Makes impressions of the teeth and models of the mouth, teeth and jaws
- ▶ Is skilled in both the clinical and technical aspects of fitting appliances
- ▶ May work independently and run their own business
- ▶ Is a provider recognised by the Australian Government and all private health funds.



Advantages of being a Dental Prosthetist

- ▶ Working with a wide range of people in a varied and interesting job in a healthcare environment
- ▶ Using scientific, artistic, clinical and technical skills
- ▶ Being your own boss
- ▶ Seeing upfront the positive differences you have made to people's lives.





How to become a Dental Prosthetist

- ▶ Firstly, you will need to complete a two-year Diploma in Dental Technology at TAFE or other accredited institution
- ▶ Complete a two-year part-time Advanced Diploma in Dental Prosthetics at TAFE or other accredited institution.

Where can you go from there?

- ▶ Teach students at TAFE and university about clinical and technical aspects of dentistry
 - ▶ Become an inventor – develop, patent and produce new dental appliances or production processes
 - ▶ Be a technical advisor or marketing manager for the dental laboratory industry
 - ▶ Research new dental materials.
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Thank you

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For more information

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Email
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www.adansw.com.au/Careers.aspx