

MAKING CAREER CHOICES

FACT SHEETS TO HELP YOU CHOOSE
THE RIGHT CAREER AND STUDY PATH



Dental

Dental Nurse, Dental Assistant, Dental Technician, Dental Hygienist, Dental Prosthetist, Oral Health Therapist

Industry Description

Practitioners in this industry will be required to assist dentists and oral health therapists in providing treatment to the teeth, mouth and gums. Duties may include the construction and repair of dentures and other dental appliances, providing dental hygiene services and performing reception and administration duties.

Below are some of the particularly demanding requirements. Reasonable Adjustment may apply for individuals with specific support needs in industry training. The learner should have:

- the ability to sit unsupported and maintain the same position for long periods
- the ability to handle and control tools with accuracy (manual dexterity)
- the ability to work in confined spaces for long periods of time
- tolerance for blood and body fluids and strong odours
- the ability to follow precise instructions
- the ability to concentrate for extended periods of time
- the ability to see details at close range (near vision)
- tolerance for high glare environments
- the ability to read, comprehend and produce written texts such as reports, instructions and accounts
- the ability to deliver clear and concise oral instructions and information
- the ability to deal with customers and give full attention, taking time to understand and asking questions as appropriate (active listening)
- the ability to withstand high pitch noises for extended periods of time.

Below are some of the important personal abilities that are required. The learner should have:

- good eye/hand coordination
- good interpersonal and communication skills

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- the ability to do precise and detailed work
- be comfortable with close physical contact with clients
- good personal hygiene and presentation
- good organisational and time management skills.

Workplace Health and Safety

All practitioners must understand their workplace health and safety obligations and safety requirements under the:

- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* which imposes obligations on people at workplaces to ensure workplace health and safety.
- *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011* that describes what must be done to prevent or control certain hazards which cause injury, illness or death.
- *Codes of Practice*, which are designed to give practical advice about ways to manage exposure to risks common to industry.

All practitioners must be able to participate in Risk Assessments, Incident Reports and Hazard Identification.

A course of Hepatitis B vaccinations is essential for employment.

Legislative or licensing issues

All practitioners must meet the qualification requirements set by industry standards.

In Queensland, Dental Technicians are required to be registered with the Dental Technicians Board of Queensland.

Resources and further information

For more information on duties, tasks and career and labour market information relating to Dental, please refer to <http://joboutlook.gov.au>.

Industry information/professional associations

Australian Dental Association (National Office): www.ada.org.au

Australian Dental Association (Queensland): www.adaq.com.au

The Dental Assistants Professional Association: www.dapa.asn.au

Dental Assistants Association Qld Inc: www.daaqld.com

Australian Dental Prosthetists Association: www.adpa.com.au

Oral Health Professionals Association: www.ohpa.org.au

Dental Board of Australia: www.dentalboard.gov.au

Dental Hygienists' Association of Australia: www.dhaa.info



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Queensland Health: www.health.qld.gov.au/employment/work-for-us

Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists' Association Inc: www.adohta.net.au

For career resources to help explore and plan careers, visit www.myfuture.edu.au.

*This is intended to be used as a tool for career research, in conjunction with other resources. For specific course information, please refer to the TAFE Queensland website www.tafeqld.edu.au or ring **1300 308 233**.*