

Dental Assistant

Dental assistants prepare patients for dental examination and assist dental practitioners, hygienists and therapists in providing care and treatment.

Job title examples



- Dental Assistant
- Dental Nurse
- Dental Chairside Assistant

Other jobs in this field of work

What dental assistants do



- receive and prepare patients
- arrange and hand instruments, medication, and other dental requisites to dental practitioners
- prepare dental materials and process X-rays
- use suction devices and water sprays
- perform routine maintenance on equipment
- sterilise and prevent cross infection of equipment
- may advise patients on dental health education and post-operative care and procedures
- may act as receptionist for dental practitioners
- may perform billing and other clerical tasks

Main employing industries



- Health Care and Social Assistance

Qualifications



The following government subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate III in Dental Assisting available as a traineeship or qualification

Certificate IV in Dental Assisting available as a traineeship or qualification

Apprenticeships and traineeships: Find out how to get an [apprenticeship or traineeship](#).

Course fees: You may be eligible for government subsidised training under Smart and Skilled. Go to the [Course Finder](#) to find training in your area, estimate your fee and find a training provider.

Job prospects and pay



- There are around 5,276 dental assistants working in NSW.
- Over the next four years, employment in this occupation is expected to decline in NSW.

Average weekly full time earnings (before tax):

- Dental Assistants: \$846
- All occupations: \$1,200

Related jobs



- Dental Hygienist, Technician and Therapist

To find out more regarding these related jobs, visit the [Job Guides Homepage](#).

Information sources

Occupations: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 1220.0

Employment: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, 6291.0.55.003

Skills shortages: Department of Employment, Skill Shortage List NSW 2015-16

Job prospects: Centre of Policy Studies (CoPS), Victoria University, Employment Forecast Data for NSW 2015/16 to 2022/23

Earnings: Department of Employment, joboutlook.gov.au, based on ABS Characteristics of Employment Survey, August 2014