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 Chairside Assistant
- Dental Nurse

**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](#).

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**Information sources**

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


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