

# CAREER FACT SHEET

## Dental Assistants

### Snapshot

Dental Assistants prepare patients for dental examination and assist Dental Practitioners, Hygienists and Therapists in providing care and treatment.

How many are employed in this occupation?	35,100
What are the average weekly earnings for full time workers?	\$1,102
How does unemployment compare with other occupations?	Average
What are the job prospects for this occupation?	Medium
What will be the likely future employment growth for the next five years?	Moderate Growth

### Main employing industries

Health Care and Social Assistance

### Tasks

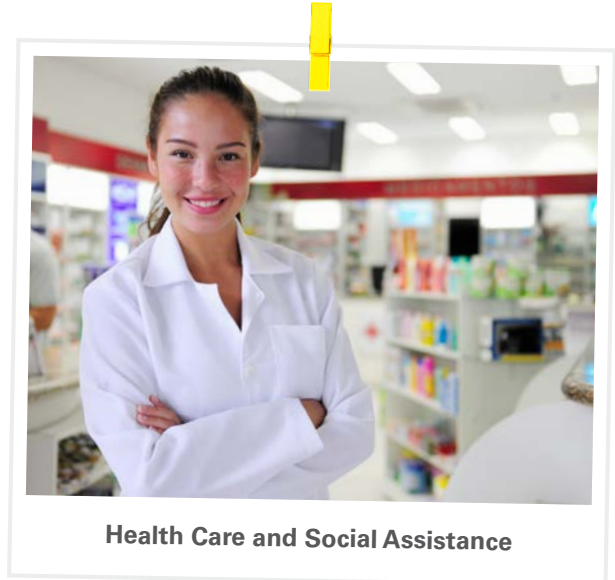
This occupation may include associated occupations with varying tasks.

- receiving and preparing patients
- arranging and handing instruments, medication, and other dental requisites to dental practitioners
- preparing dental materials and processing x-rays
- using suction devices and water sprays
- performing routine maintenance on equipment
- sterilising and preventing 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.

# INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

## Health Care and Social Assistance

Are you interested in helping people improve their health? Do you enjoy caring for others? Perhaps you would like to assist people experiencing a disability, or are keen to get involved in the wellness industry. If you are intrigued by these possibilities, a job in the Health Care and Social Assistance sector may be for you. The Health Care and Social Assistance industry encompasses a diversity of occupations, ranging from fields such as dental hygiene, optometry, pharmacy, disability services, mental health and aged-care, to fitness training, sports science, lifestyle coaching and nutrition. The Health Training Package offers over 75 Vocational and Training (VET) qualifications, so if you're interested in health you'll probably find an occupation and qualification to suit you! Don't forget it's possible to begin your Health Care and Social Assistance career by training for VET qualifications to start with before possibly working your way up to a University Degree. The Health Care and Social Assistance sector has experienced strong growth in the last ten years, making it one of Australia's largest employers and the growth is forecast to continue, so jobs in this industry are expected to be plentiful.



**Health Care and Social Assistance**

### Possible job pathways

- Anaesthetists
- Ambulance Officers and Paramedics
- Chiropractors and Osteopaths
- Complementary Health Therapists
- Dental Assistants
- Dental Practitioners
- Dental Hygienists, Technicians and Therapists
- Dieticians
- Generalist Medical Practitioners
- Health Information Managers
- Indigenous Health Workers
- Internal Medicine Specialists
- Massage Therapists
- Medical Imaging Professionals
- Medical Laboratory Scientists
- Medical Technicians
- Midwives
- Nurses (Enrolled and Mothercraft Nurses)
- Nursing Managers
- Optometrists and Orthoptists
- Other Medical Practitioners
- Podiatrists
- Pharmacists
- Physiotherapists
- Practice Managers
- Psychiatrists
- Psychologists
- Nurse Educators and Researchers
- Registered Nurses
- Speech Professionals and Audiologists
- Photographic Developers and Printers
- Aged and Disabled Carers
- Counsellors
- Diversional Therapists
- Health and Welfare Services Managers
- Nursing Support and Personal Care Workers
- Occupational Therapists
- Social Workers
- Special Care Workers
- Welfare Support Workers
- Welfare, Recreation and Community Arts Workers

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