

JOB ROLE

DENTAL ASSISTANT

LEVEL OF GROWTH FOR JOB ROLE



- > Projected Change +6.5%
- > From 35,800 in 2021 to 38,100 in 2026

AVERAGE SALARY FOR OCCUPATION



Entry level
(1-3 years' experience)



Senior
(8+ years' experience)

WHAT DO EMPLOYERS WANT?



SPECIALISED SKILLS

- > Infection control
- > Customer Service
- > Surgery
- > Dentistry
- > Patient Care

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

- > Communication skills
- > Detail orientated
- > Organisational skills
- > Computer literacy skills
- > Planning

DIGITAL SKILLS

- > Microsoft Excel
- > Microsoft Office
- > Practice Management Software

EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS



TOP SOUTH AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIES WHO ADVERTISED FOR THIS JOB ROLE IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS:

- > Dental Services
- > Hospitals (except Psychiatric Hospitals)
- > Aged Care Residential Services
- > State Government Administration
- > Management Advice and other consulting service

TOP SOUTH AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYERS WHO ADVERTISED FOR THIS JOB ROLE IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS:

- > Government of South Australia
- > Bupa
- > Starling Services Incorporated
- > Oxford Dental Practice
- > Lidums Dental



YOU MIGHT CONSIDER UNDERTAKING STUDY TO TRANSITION INTO THESE RELATED JOB ROLES:

- > Dental Therapist
- > Dental Hygienist
- > Dentist
- > Medical Receptionist



QUALIFICATION PATHWAYS

Looking to progress your career? TAFE SA can help you further your study with these courses (*fees may apply)

- > Certificate III in Dental Assisting (HLT35021)
- > Certificate IV in Dental Assisting (HLT45021)
- > Diploma of Dental Technology (HLT55118)
- > Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene) (10926NAT)

Or undertake a range of short courses to supplement your existing knowledge or continue upskilling.

Further information available on the TAFE SA website.



JOB HOLDER COMMENTS

“As part of the course, we get to practice our skills at The University of Adelaide’s simulation clinic. Here we are able to refine our clinical skills before going into the dental clinic at TAFE SA Gilles Plains to treat real patients.”

Carlie Squiers
Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene)



NETWORKING WITH INDUSTRY

Networking with industry provides you with opportunities to gain employment, advance your career and stay current with industry changes.

Upcoming conferences and workshops are an excellent way to introduce yourself to key industry contacts. Upcoming events include:

- > **DHAA (Dental Hygienists Association of Australia) National Symposium 2023**
Adelaide Convention Centre
21st – 23rd September 2023

Follow these organisations on social media:

- > The Australian Dental Association South Australia
- > Australian Dental Association

Consider these opportunities to find employment:

- > Send your resume to relevant businesses in your local area
- > Look for employment opportunities advertised on
 - the TAFE SA Jobs Board
 - online employment websites like Seek
 - the job board on your local Regional Development Australia (RDA) website



CAREER SUPPORT

Not sure where to start? TAFE SA’s Student Services can provide you with a range of career planning support including:

- > career planning
- > write a winning resume
- > how to respond to selection criteria
- > cover letters that stand out
- > preparing for job interviews

To find out more, or to book an appointment, visit TAFE SA’s Career Support Page: Career Support (tafesa.edu.au)

Data sources:

Burning Glass Technologies. “Labor Insight™ Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool.” <http://www.burning-glass.com>. 2021, data sourced 2023

Labour Market Insights, Government of Australia, data sourced 2023

Salaries are based on the Median Australian Salary from Salary Expert. Experienced salary levels may require additional study. Salaries may vary in your location. Information is accurate as of March 2023 and is to be used as a guide only.

TAFE SA and the publisher take no responsibility, and will accept no liability, for the accuracy, currency, reliability, or correctness of the networking options. Readers should make their own inquiries and rely on their own advice when making decisions related to material contained in this publication.