

# JOB ROLE

# DENTAL ASSISTANT

## LEVEL OF GROWTH FOR JOB ROLE



- > Projected change of +13.4%
- > From 25,700 in 2023 to 29,200 in 2028

## AVERAGE SALARY FOR OCCUPATION



**Entry level**  
(1-3 years' experience)



**Senior**  
(8+ years' experience)

## WHAT DO EMPLOYERS WANT?



### SPECIALISED SKILLS

- > Infection Control
- > Patient Preparation
- > Dental Informatics
- > Dental Instruments
- > Treatment Planning

### EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

- > Detail Orientated
- > Customer Service
- > Strong Work Ethic
- > Effective Communication

### DIGITAL SKILLS

- > Practise Management Software
- > Microsoft 365 Applications

## EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS



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

- > Dental Services
- > Aged Care Residential Services
- > Hospitals

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

- > BUPA
- > State of South Australia
- > Maven Dental Group
- > Lidums Dental
- > Tea Tree Dental

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

- > Dental Hygienist
- > Dentist
- > Medical Technicians





## 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 stimulation 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) (10286NAT)



## NETWORKING WITH INDUSTRY

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

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

- > **Australian Dental Industry Association**  
Various Webinars & Online Forums  
Further information available on the Associations [website](#).

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:

Industry and job role data sourced 2024 from Lightcast™.(2022). “Labor Insight™ Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool.” Retrieved from <https://labourinsight.lightcast.io/anz>.

Level of Growth for Job Role data sourced 2024 from Employment Projections, Jobs and Skills Australia © Commonwealth of Australia. Jobs and Skills Australia monitors the quality of information available on this website and updates this regularly however Jobs and Skills Australia does not make any representation or warranty about the accuracy, reliability, currency, or completeness of any material contained on this website or on any linked site.

Salaries are based on the Median Australian Salary from “<https://www.salaryexpert.com>” Salary Expert. Experienced salary levels may require additional study. Salaries may vary in your location. Information is accurate as of January 2024 and is to be used as a guide only.

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