

What is a dental prosthetist?

Dental prosthetists work independently to provide complete and partial dentures, dental appliances and mouthguards to the public. They consult directly with patients about their dental prosthetic needs and help to achieve the patient's goals by cosmetically improving appearance, achieving improved breathing, nutrition and general health, or increasing confidence and social prospects with a prostheses.

Is this you?

- able to establish rapport with patients
- good communication skills
- good hand-eye coordination
- able to do precise and detailed work
- an eye for form and design.

“Providing someone with a new set of teeth is not just about enhancing appearances. You can make someone look instantly younger, but what’s more rewarding is to see how someone’s self-confidence and outlook on life can be dramatically improved with a new smile.”
Shelton Hayes, prosthetist

What does a prosthetist do?

Dental prosthetists may:

- Take impressions of a patient's mouth
- Construct plaster and wax models of a patient's mouth and teeth
- Use the models to construct dental appliances such as mouthguards, dentures and crowns using a range of materials and techniques
- Maintain, repair and reline dentures as required
- Personally consult, advise and assist the patient in all aspects of their prosthetic treatment.

Where can prosthetists work in Queensland Health?

Queensland Health Oral Health Services offer differing work environments including clinics, hospitals and laboratories. Outreach services are also provided to hospitals, correctional centres and aged care facilities. Queensland Health encourages contemporary minimally invasive dentistry.

How do you become a prosthetist?

After completing a relevant course in dental technology, dental technicians can upgrade their qualifications to become a dental prosthetist. Entry to the course below usually requires completion of a diploma or degree in dental technology. As entry requirements may vary, you should contact the institution for further details.

Advanced Diploma course

Southbank Institute of Technology

- Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics, 2 years full- time

Masters course

Griffith University – Gold Coast Campus

- Master of Dental Technology in Prosthetics, 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

Registration

Dental prosthetists must be registered with the Dental Board of Australia.

Interested in other oral health careers?

Visit the Queensland Health website www.health.qld.gov.au and search for Dental to find more career factsheets:

- Dental technician
- Dentist
- Oral health therapist
- Dental assistant.

Where can I find out more info?

Griffith University

- Phone: (07) 5678 0793
- Website: www.griffith.edu.au/health/school-dentistry-oral-health

Southbank Institute of TAFE

- Phone: 13 72 48
- Website: www.southbank.edu.au

The QTAC website has a list of universities and tertiary institutions with links to universities and courses offered. Go to www.qtac.edu.au and select Institutions.

To find out more about the exciting career opportunities in Queensland Health visit www.health.qld.gov.au.