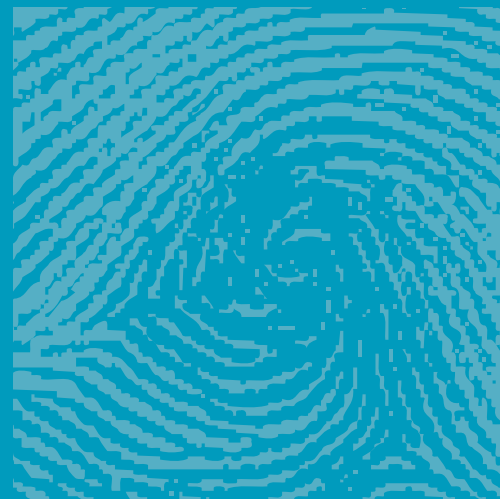


Snapshot

Dr Chee-Wah Khew
Senior Dentist



What do I do?

I'm a senior dentist and Manager of the Bendigo Health Care Group co-located dental clinic, a nine-chair, two-program clinic. I have a dual role. I am an administrator as well as a clinician.

What was my career path?

I graduated from Dentistry in 1969 in Singapore, and did an internship year in Malaysia. In 1970 I bought a practice in Kuala Lumpur, and worked seven days a week for three years, working very hard to build up the practice. I worked in my private practice for twelve years before working in private and public practice in Hong Kong. I migrated to Australia in 1987 and started my Australian career in the public sector, and this is where my dental career is going to conclude.

What do I like most about my role?

I have worked here at Bendigo for over ten years, and what I have enjoyed most about my time here is my contribution to the community. The alleviation of pain and restoring function to people makes me feel good about what I do. I love being in contact with the public, particularly in the rural sector and our clients are very appreciative of the effort that we put in.

What would I change about my role?

There is always a challenge to try and get adequate resources to the rural areas, and the recruitment of dentists and dental staff is a big task. The incentives put in place by the department are helping. The Government is going in the right direction because there are now relocation expenses, mentoring, and rural incentive schemes in place.

I love my clinical work, so I would like less of an administrative and managerial focus to my job.

What skills do I need in my job?

I really love doing things with my hands, so manual dexterity is really important in dentistry, as are good communication skills.

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