

Snapshot

Leonie Medica
Dental Therapist



What do I do?

I'm a dental therapist. I work one day a week with the Victorian School Dental Service Program treating children from Prep to Year 8, and I work one day and one evening per week treating patients from Year 9 to 25 years of age in the Youth Dental Program.

Day to day?

Primarily I'm a clinician, treating patients. Each working day I go through the list of the day's patients to plan how my day is going to unfold, however we often have emergencies that turn up. We have a policy of treating anyone with an emergency within twenty-four hours, so we never have just a straight through, perfectly planned day.

What was my career path?

I was always interested in health careers, and after I completed Year 12 I enrolled in a nursing training program. However, I found out about the Dental Therapy course and was really interested in it, especially the opportunity to work with children. At that time it was a cadetship, so we were paid as we went through the course. I worked in dental vans and clinics in schools for the first ten years of my career, and I did some work with the Kosovo refugees when they were here at Puckapunyal. That was a fantastic experience. It made me feel so worthwhile because every little thing that I did was so appreciated.

What do I like most about my job?

The best part about my job is when I have won over the confidence of a child. I get satisfaction from taking a child from that first step, providing oral health instruction, doing whatever needs doing, then getting to the end result when they leave and they are happy with the result.

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