

Dental prosthetist



What is a dental prosthetist?

Dental prosthetists construct and repair dental appliances, such as mouth guards, dentures, crowns and bridges, working alongside other dental professionals. They use a range of materials and techniques in their day-to-day work including plaster casting, welding, metal casting, polishing, modelling, ceramics, electroplating and sandblasting.

What skills do dental prosthetists need?

Dental prosthetists need good communication and interpersonal skills to work alongside other dental professionals and clients, as well as good manual dexterity to do finely detailed work.

Where do dental prosthetists work?

Dental prosthetists work in laboratories with other dental professionals and laboratory staff in public and private settings.

There are many job opportunities in the private and public sectors in both metropolitan and rural Victoria.

How do I become a dental prosthetist?

In Victoria, there are two steps to becoming a qualified dental prosthetist. The first step is to complete a four-year Diploma of Dental Technology – Apprenticeship through RMIT University. The apprenticeship is a mix of on- and off-the-job learning in a clinical setting. A person who has completed this qualification can work as a dental technician in a laboratory.

The second step is to complete the Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics. This qualification is taken part-time over two years and also combines on- and off-the-job training. A person who has completed this additional qualification can work directly with clients.

For more information contact RMIT University on (03) 9341 1403 or visit www.rmit.edu.au.

Want more information?

More information is available at the following websites:

- **Dentistry in Victoria:** www.health.vic.gov.au/dentistry
 - Find more fact sheets about other careers in dentistry
- **Dental Prosthetist Association of Victoria:** www.dpavic.com.au
 - Find more information about working as a dental prosthetist
- **Dental Health Services Victoria:** www.dhsv.org.au
 - Find out about Victoria's public dental service
 - Find more information on dental careers
- **RMIT University:** www.rmit.edu.au
 - Find out more about the courses in dental technology and dental prosthetics.

Your careers adviser can also provide further information.