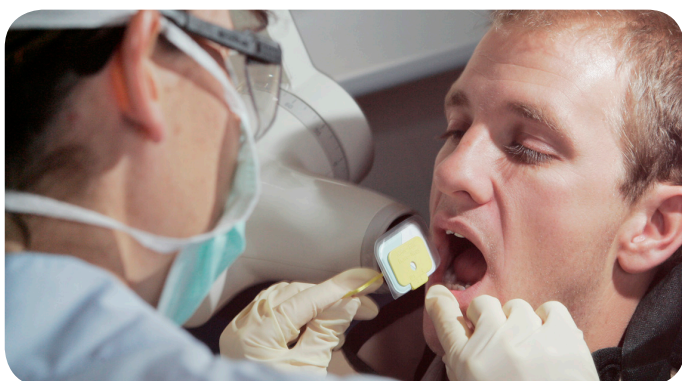


# Dental therapy



## >> What is Dental Therapy?

Dental Therapy/Oral Health Therapy is the diagnosis and clinical treatment of oral diseases which can occur in the teeth and supporting structures in children from birth to 18 years. This can include examination, diagnosis, taking radiographs (x-rays), cleaning and scaling, restorative dentistry (filling cavities) administering local anaesthesia, extraction of deciduous (baby) teeth, fissure sealants, fluoride therapy, mouth guard impressions and treating gum disease. Dental therapists and oral health therapists also undertake preventive programs and health promotion within the community.

Dental therapists and oral health therapists are registered primary healthcare professionals who provide the restorative and preventive dental services to children and adolescents.

## Where do Dental and Oral Health Therapists work in Tasmania?

Dental and Oral Health Therapists may practice publicly and privately. Public practice is through Oral Health Services Tasmania clinics (DHHS) which may be co-located within community health centres or primary schools. Privately, Dental and Oral Health Therapists may work in general or specialised dental practices. Dental and Oral Health Therapists have the right to independent private practice in Tasmania provided there is an established referral pathway with a practising dentist.

## How do Dental and Oral Health Therapists work in DHHS?

Dental and Oral Health Therapists provide treatment within the scope of practice of the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001* and Oral Health Services policies and guidelines. Conditions which require treatment beyond the scope of Dental Therapists and Oral Health Therapists are referred to a dental officer or orthodontist.

## What qualifications are required to practice?

Dental and Oral Health Therapists in Tasmania must be registered to practice in line with the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001* and the *Radiation Protection Act 1995*. A person may apply to the Board to be registered as a dental therapist/oral health therapist if the person has a qualification as a dental therapist or oral health therapist that is approved by, or gained from, an accredited tertiary institution. Currently the Bachelor of Oral Health is offered through the Universities of Sydney, Griffith, Adelaide, La Trobe, Melbourne, Queensland and the Curtin University of Technology in Western Australia offers an Associate Degree.

## Useful links

Tasmanian Dental Therapist Association:  
[tcta@ADOHTA.net.au](mailto:tcta@ADOHTA.net.au)

Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapist Association:  
[adohta@ADOHTA.net.au](mailto:adohta@ADOHTA.net.au)

Dental Board of Tasmania:  
<http://www.dentalboard.tas.gov.au>

DHHS – Oral Health Service Tasmania: <http://intra.dhhs.tas.gov.au/dhhs-online/page.php?id=5431>

Senior Dental Therapist: Anne Warner (North):  
[anne.warner@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:anne.warner@dhhs.tas.gov.au)

Senior Dental Therapist: Leigh Gorrington (South):  
[leigh.gorrington@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:leigh.gorrington@dhhs.tas.gov.au)