

WHAT'CHA
GONNA DO?

WORKING IN ORAL HEALTH COULD B 4 U

"I loved the idea of working with my two favourite things: kids and teeth!"

Chanae, dental therapist for Counties Manukau District Health Board

Q What does someone working in oral health do?

Q What subjects do I need to take at school?

Q How do I get into it?

Q Will I get a job after studying?

Q Where can I find out more information?

Do you have an eye for detail? Do you have good hand-eye coordination? Do you have good listening skills? Do you like working in a team?

If you answered yes, then working in ORAL HEALTH could B 4 U!

What does someone working in oral health do?

Oral health is an important part of a person's total health. There are many members of the oral health care team: **dentists** study and treat problems with people's mouths, teeth, gums and jaws; **dental therapists** provide young people with every-day dental care and help promote good oral health; **dental hygienists** treat gum disease and help people take care of their teeth and gums; **dental technicians** create and repair devices for people's teeth; **dental assistants** help dentists as well as therapists and hygienists to carry out their job.

What subjects do I need to take at school?

Dental therapist & dental hygienist: Biology. Other useful subjects include chemistry and English.

Dental technician: Chemistry and biology. Other useful subjects include maths, art and physics.

Dental assistant: no specific subjects, however useful subjects are biology and English.

Dentist: Useful subjects include English, chemistry, physics, biology and statistics or calculus.

If you haven't taken the right subjects at school don't worry, as most universities and polytechnics offer bridging programmes to prepare you for study.

How do I get into it?

Dental therapist: 3-year degree in oral health at Auckland University of Technology (AUT) or the University of Otago.

Dental hygienist: 3-year degree in oral health at the University of Otago.

Dental technician: 3-year degree in dental technology at the University of Otago.

Dental assistant: on-the-job training through the NZ Dental Association.

Dentist: 5-year degree in dental surgery at the University of Otago.

Check out the accompanying "Health Occupations Summary" for a more detailed list of courses available and entry requirements.

Will I get a job after studying?

There is a shortage of all types of oral health workers.

Where can I find out more information?

AUT, Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences

Website: www.aut.ac.nz

Email: courseinfo@aut.ac.nz

Tel: 0800 AUT UNI

University of Otago, Faculty of Dentistry

Website: www.otago.ac.nz/healthscience

Email: health-sciences@stonebow.otago.ac.nz

Tel: 0800 80 80 98

NZ Dental Association www.nzda.org.nz

Careers websites: www.cmdhb.org.nz/careers

www.healthcareers.org.nz

www.kiwicareers.govt.nz

www.kiwiqual.govt.nz

For any other questions call Counties Manukau District Health Board on (09) 259 5052 to speak with someone about careers or email careers@cmdhb.org.nz.