

## **Dental Technology Education @ Griffith University: Are Graduates Ready for Work?**

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**Introduction** Griffith University has taken a lead in dental technology education by offering the first degree program of its kind in Australia. Providing students with the opportunity to work in an integrated oral health team while developing the skills, attitudes and knowledge required for a career in the profession of dental technology, principally in fabrication of oral prostheses. To date there is no data surrounding the readiness to practice of our dental technology graduates.

**Approach and Findings** As part of a broader study evaluating interprofessional education in the oral health sciences, a survey was conducted with employers of 2006-2009 graduates from the Bachelor of Oral Health in Dental Technology at Griffith. Graduates' readiness for work was gauged in relation to clarity of role, professionalism, technical and organisational skills, and knowledge base. Sixty-nine percent of graduate employers responded positively to all questions.

**Conclusion** One hundred percent of employers said they would employ another Griffith dental technology graduate. Furthermore, our graduates demonstrated they were contributing to a range of specialties within dental technology.

**Future Directions** At a local level we intend to survey the graduates perception of readiness for practice, engage the wider dental community in further curriculum development and continue the survey with all oral health graduates. At an institutional level we plan to utilise these findings to increase the number of entrants into the program.

**Opportunities for Collaboration in Health** This is an example of successful interprofessional learning and teaching, which has applications across the whole of the Health Group.