

3 May 2018

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By online form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DentalISF2018>

Dear Silvia,

RE: Draft Dental Industry Reference Committee Industry Skills Forecast 2018

Thank you for providing the Australian Dental Association (ADA) with the opportunity to provide feedback on the SkillsIQ's Draft Dental Industry Reference Committee Industry Skills Forecast 2018 (draft Dental ISF). What follows is the ADA's feedback.

The ADA notes that on page 3-4 the discussion about current dental Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications as of March 2018 does not mention the existence of the Advanced Diploma for Oral Health (Dental Hygiene) (10286NAT) which is currently being offered by Gillies TAFE. The ADA understands that this qualification is not included in the Health Learning Training (HLT) Package.¹ This is a particularly important qualification as it provides an additional pathway for already experienced dental assistants to become registered Dental Hygienists, further their career and continue to be part of the team providing dental care to patients without the need to become an oral health therapist. There is considerable demand for trained dental hygienists. Accordingly, this qualification should be included in the HLT and included in the list allowing access to VET Student Loans. Without the ability to have an option of a VET Student Loan many talented individuals will simply be unable to enrol in the course. Graduates of this course have the substantial clinical experience that not only meets the quality requirements of the Australian Dental Council but also their future employers. Supporting the sustainability of already skilled and experienced prospective (dental assisting qualified) students wishing to expand their qualifications to work as dental hygienists, would help meet the dental industry employer demand for those skills.

On page 15, dot point 3, dental hygienists have been omitted in the following statement: "Dental Board of Australia Registrant data [Dental Board of Australia - DBA] – provides registration information about dentists, students, dental specialists, dental therapists, oral health therapists and dental prosthetists". Dental hygienists are a recognised dental profession which is registrable with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency/DBA.

The ADA supports the overall proposal of the ISF suggesting that there are two key gaps in the skills training available to dental assistants via the Certificate III and IV qualifications, skills related to orthodontic dental assistance and assisting in implant and surgical dental procedures.

¹ <https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/HLT>

For further ADA comment, please contact Damian Mitsch at ceo@ada.org.au or 02 8815 3333.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Sachs', written in a cursive style.

Dr Hugo Sachs
President