

The Smile Squad workforce

Important information for your school



Who is Smile Squad?

Smile Squad is managed by Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV), who are the lead oral health agency in Victoria.

Dental Health Services Victoria:

- provides oral healthcare through the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne and via dental services at more than 50 community health agencies in Victoria
- is a trusted advisor in public oral health policy and program and guideline development, working to improve oral health in Victorian communities
- ensures all community dental agencies are accredited to the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards.

Community health agencies will be providing school dental program services under the name 'Smile Squad'.

The Smile Squad workforce will be:

- comprised of oral health therapists (OHTs), dental therapists (DTs), dentists and dental assistants (DAs). Dentists will be relied upon for more complex treatment (e.g. root canals)
- clinicians who are qualified to provide a wide range of dental care in a variety of settings (including schools)
- performing work within their usual scope of practice, consistent with the work they perform in the dental clinic

- comprised of dentists, oral health therapists and dental therapists registered with the Australian Health Practitioners Registration Association (AHPRA)
- equipped with years of education and the necessary qualifications.

Meet the Smile Squad

When visiting the Smile Squad for either an examination or treatment, students will encounter a range of different dental professionals. Below is a simple guide to what they do.

Dental assistants (DAs)

Dental assistants assist dental therapists, oral health therapists and dentists chair-side during procedures. They also carry out a variety of administrative tasks and help prepare students for their examination or treatment.

Dental therapists (DTs) and oral health therapists (OHTs)

DTs and OHTs are both trained to manage the oral health examinations and many of the follow up treatments included in the Smile Squad program. They provide oral health assessment, diagnosis, treatment, management and preventive services for children and adolescents. They both work within a structured relationship with a dentist. OHTs have an additional qualification in dental hygiene and can carry out tasks such as scaling and cleaning teeth.

Dentists

Dentists specialise in the treatment of conditions affecting the mouth, teeth, jaws and gums. They provide assessment, diagnosis, treatment, management and preventive services to patients of all ages.