

“When you’re at school you’re pushed to make decisions about the rest of your life. But there are other things out there you don’t know about and you might really enjoy. VET gives you a chance to try some of those.”

## Dimiti Andresen's journey

Today Dental Assistant with the Northern Territory Government's Oral Health Services

2015-16 Australian School-based Apprenticeship as a Dental Assistant  
- Certificate III in Dental Assisting  
- Certificate III in Business



**Today I'm working full time as a dental assistant with the Northern Territory Government's Oral Health Services, but how did I get here?**

## **Dimiti's story**

I originally started two days a week on an Australian School-based Apprenticeship in Year 11. I chose an apprenticeship because school wasn't my thing. Sitting in a classroom, learning one way wasn't my way, and I wanted to get into work.

I never saw myself working in healthcare, but dental assisting was one of the options available, so I went into it completely blind. I had no idea what to do and didn't have any expectations, but I ended up really enjoying it and the way of learning really suited me. I had all the info written in front of me, but I also had the chance to put it straight into effect the next day, and I was remembering things. I much prefer to learn through repetition of doing something constantly, not going back to revise things from a book a year later.

After eight months I started working full time and was studying for my Certificate III in Dental Assisting and also a Certificate III in Business.

I love it and it's led to other opportunities. I've had temp placements in other roles, including six months in administration, and the opportunity to backfill in my manager's position when she went away.

**VET gave me something I wanted to do.  
Getting into the workforce and getting a qualification  
helped me screw my head on straight.**

**“By the time I was 18 I was a qualified dental assistant and had a career.”**