## Submission for Inclusion of Dental Assistants on the Skilled Occupations List

Dear Jobs and Skills Australia,

I am writing to highlight the critical shortage of dental assistants across Australia and the urgent need to include this occupation on the Skilled Occupations List for immigration visas. Dental assistants play a vital role in supporting the efficient functioning of dental practices, ensuring patient care, infection control, and assisting with procedures.

Australia is experiencing a growing demand for dental services due to an aging population, increasing awareness of oral health, and expansion in dental practices. However, the supply of skilled dental assistants is insufficient to meet this demand, causing delays in services and increased workload on existing staff.

Including dental assistants on the Skilled Occupations List will help address this gap by attracting qualified professionals from overseas to support the dental workforce. This will not only ensure timely access to dental care for all Australians but also support the sustainability of the healthcare sector, improve employment outcomes, and contribute to Australia's economy.

We strongly urge Jobs and Skills Australia to consider the inclusion of dental assistants in the Skilled Occupations List as a priority.

Sincerely,

The Dental Studio Stirling