

VOLUNTEER - Position Description

Volunteer Program
Lindsay McWha, Patron



Position Title: Volunteer Patient for Enhancing Dental Student Communication Skills

University Area: School of Dentistry

Description and purpose: Volunteers will help 2nd and 3rd year dental students learn how to communicate well with patients. The program is part of the communication skills course in the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) degree. Volunteers will participate in communication role-plays with dental students. A communication role-play involves a dental student asking a Volunteer Patient a series of questions, or pretending to teach a Volunteer Patient about oral health, or pretending to assist a Volunteer Patient to cope with dental anxiety.

Responsibilities: To portray dental patients in communication role-plays according to the briefing notes provided and the guidelines presented during the training session. To attend the training session and relevant teaching sessions for which the volunteer is available.

Specific duties to be undertaken: To interact with dental students from the perspective of a patient in a range of situations (eg during a history-taking interview, during patient education). To provide feedback to students.

Qualifications: Adults 18 years and over, no acting skills or experience necessary.

Training Provided: A training session is provided before volunteers commence working with students.

Personal attributes required: Willingness to contribute to the education of dental students; readiness to role-play and to give supportive feedback.

Timeframe:

Sessions for Second year BDS: Training in July and teaching in August, September and October.

Sessions for Third year BDS: Training in February and teaching in February, March and April.

Sessions run for two to three hours.

Location: Medical School, Frome Rd, Adelaide

Special Requirements - eg. police check, health check, drivers' licence: none required

Benefits to the volunteer: As a Volunteer Patient, you will meet other Volunteer Patients and the students and School staff, you will have the reward of contributing to the education of our future dentists, and you will be giving something to the community.

Should this volunteer position interest you please contact:

Name: Ms Karen Squires

Telephone: 8303 5968

Fax: 8303 3444

Email: karen.squires@adelaide.edu.au

Web Link Details: http://health.adelaide.edu.au/dentistry/volunteer_patients