

A portrait of Deneille Walden, a woman with curly brown hair, smiling and wearing a blue and white striped shirt. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Deneille Walden,

Dental Therapist

As a school leaver I was looking for a profession where my qualifications would be recognised both in New Zealand and overseas. I wanted to work with people as part of a team that helped children and their whanau to feel good about their health and wellbeing. Dental Therapy is a rewarding career with a strong emphasis on fostering life-long dental habits in young people and working directly with patients to provide both preventative and restorative treatment.

When I graduated as a School Dental Therapist I was based in communities at local schools but now there are more opportunities to work in hospitals, community clinics, iwi based services and the private sector. I enjoy the challenge of working with children and whanau and have found that you certainly develop excellent communication skills and an awareness of relevant cultural and ethical issues. With the world of dentistry constantly changing there are always opportunities to learn new skills and gain greater understanding of the holistic approach to health.