

DentalAware

The purpose of this site is to allow patients to identify dental clinicians (dentists, prothodontists, orthodontists and prosthetists*) in their area, who solely use Australian dental technicians for the provision of prescribed dental appliances, against those dental clinicians who are sending their lab work to Asia. The secondary purpose is to educate patients on why they should be seeking out dental clinicians who use 'Australian Made' over those dentists who use Asian Made! This site was initially set up for Queensland, however we are now expanding to cover all states..

Dental clinicians whose names appear on this website have made a promise to source all their dental labwork from Australian dental laboratories employing fully qualified dental technicians (this can include work outsourced by the lab to countries that have an equivalent TGA auditing process, such as Europe). They have also promised to not misrepresent the lab fee and will provide a copy of the lab invoice on request. For some dentists it means a continuance of their normal manner of sourcing labwork, for others it represents an abandonment of Asian labwork and a return to the Australian product. Visitors to the website should understand that if you are seeking information on the source of your existing crown/denture etc, you should approach your dental clinician (even if they appear on this website) and put the question! All Australian clinicians are liable for anything used on the patient, which includes the maintenance of an audit trail (through their tech) on the origin of all labwork and are therefore obliged to answer your question. If your current clinician is not listed on this site, then possibly, Asian labwork is being used within that practice. If in doubt ask them! An Australian dental clinician who uses an Australian lab will be more than happy to put your mind at rest and name the lab he or she uses. If the answer is 'Chinese labwork is equal or superior to any Australian Lab, then perhaps after reading the information detailed at 'About', you might like to reconsider whether you feel your dentist is acting in your best interests or the best interests of Australia. I know of practices that lie to patients on the origin of their labwork when questioned, so my advice is to ask for the name of the lab and ring the lab up or alternatively, contact us. Be wary of dentist's claiming to use the 'best lab in Australia' based in Melbourne or Sydney! In reality they are referring to the location of the company that acts as a middle man between Asia and the dentist. If there is any reference to a lab not shown on this site under 100% Australian Labs, contact us for clarification. Another ruse, by dentists is to advise up front that they use Asian sourced labwork, 'because Australian labwork is so expensive'. What they are failing to advise though, is they are not passing on the savings to you - that is, the total fee is unchanged!

The list of dental clinicians supporting Australian dental techs will obviously grow and there is absolutely no chance that we will be able to identify all of them at the launch of this site. So for patients not observing their clinician's name, don't immediately be concerned, just inform your clinician about the site and see what response you get. For the those clinicians looking at the site for the first time, if you feel you meet the criteria of **dentalaware** and have a lab that can vouch for you, please contact us at dentalaware@hotmail.com

In addition to the listing of dental clinicians that support Australian Technicians, this site also lists:

- the Australian dental laboratories that continue to fabricate their own work (and where needed out source to other Australian labs), and
- those Australian labs (or importing companies that call themselves labs) that outsource all or part of their work offshore to Asia.

Disclaimer

I am a full time public dentist working for Qld Health and have also worked part-time privately for the last 10 years. This website has been set up for a very small cost (approx \$8/month) paid for by Brisbane dental technician Mr Paul Hade. There are no fees involved to any clinician or lab volunteering to appear on this website, nor do I charge any fee for editing and updating the site. The site exists purely to educate the public so that informed choices can be made.

I must apologise for the somewhat boring format of the site, but the message is there if you take the time to read everything. It is a long haul but you will be thankful for taking the time to do so.

Please now click on 'ABOUT', and become 'dental aware'.

Dr John Clark

Brisbane, QLD

Last revised: 19 Nov 2013

* Prosthetists are dental clinicians who focus on removable prosthetic items such as dentures and mouthguards, and in most instances do their own labwork.