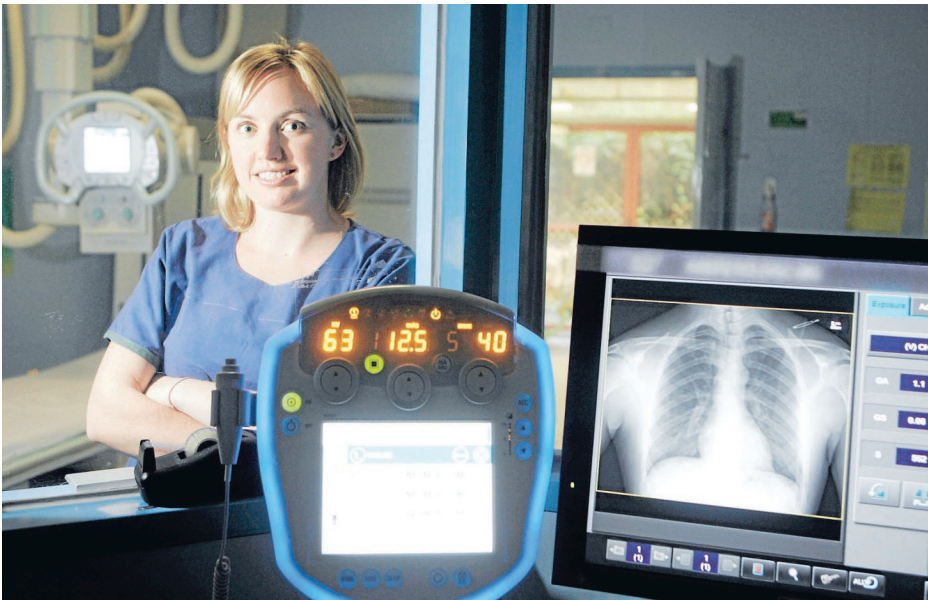


Careers in Allied health

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Radiographer Julianne Harris loves the challenge of her work. Photographer: Steve McKenzie.

A picture of health

Anyone having X-rays at Box Hill Hospital emergency can see the big clown face on the wall. If you're under a certain age you can also get a sticker for being cooperative.

"It can be a challenge to position a patient who is in a lot of pain," says radiographer Julianne Harris, who has been working at Box Hill Hospital for three years.

"In order to see exactly what needs to be done for them, we might have to repeat it several times in different positions. So a radiographer has to enjoy talking to people."

"With children, we explain that it's just like having their photo taken and they usually like that."

Because of the nature of the work, with machines which could be dangerous if not used properly, entrance to the degree requires physics, maths methods, some chemistry and biology.

It is a popular career, especially as radiographers can travel, so a high ENTER is needed to get in.

"I quite enjoyed the course," says Julianne. "We had placements two days a week in

a variety of hospitals large and small, private and public, so we could get an idea where we would prefer to work. At Box Hill Hospital I was given the chance to specialise in CT scanning and angiography straight away. So I alternate those with ward rounds and general radiography such as emergency."

Julianne says no day is ever the same and the work is very flexible with the possibility of further training in fields such as MRI.

Courses available through Monash and RMIT Universities.

Sights on career in eye health

One area of allied health is often forgotten, or even unknown, but for those who work in the area, orthoptics is a great little eye care profession.

There are about 600 of them working in Australia with training schools at La Trobe University and the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.

What do they do? An orthoptist is an eye care professional who specialises in the detection, diagnosis and treatment of vision and eye disorders.



The eyes have it.

Orthoptists mostly work in specialist eye clinics and public hospitals, where they work with ophthalmic surgeons to monitor eye disease and provide treatment, which includes prescribing glasses for children and adult patients.

Orthoptists also provide vision rehabilitation services to clients in low vision agencies.

A major part of orthoptists' work is to assess, monitor and assist in treating patients who have cataract, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration — the 'big four' major causes of vision impairment in Australia.

Orthoptists provide the pre-operative measurements to enable appropriate selection of an intraocular lens for successful cataract surgery. They also

exclusively specialise in treating children and adults who have strabismus (eye misalignment or 'lazy eye') and other eye movement abnormalities which may have neurologic origin or result from trauma.

Training in Victoria is through La Trobe University with a double-degree, Bachelor of Health Sciences/Master of Orthoptics. There is much demand for orthoptists and graduates readily gain employment in hospitals, private practice, low vision agencies, universities and eye research centres.

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