

Melanie McAlpine



I have two degrees from the School of Dentistry, a Bachelor of Dental Science with Honours and a Master of Dental Science in Periodontics. I have been fortunate to be able to pursue my career both inter-state and internationally. I have explored academic roles and clinical practice in both the public and private systems as well as in rural and metropolitan regions. I am proud to return to Western Australia and continue my long-term relationship with the School of Dentistry and the University of Western Australia and integrate this with building my private clinical practice.

I have been able to combine travel with work, and I have established international relationships whilst moulding my career around the needs of my growing family. There are few professions which allow such flexibility, diversity and richness.

My post-graduate degree was a combined teaching and post-graduate position. I will never forget the first time I saw “the light” go on in a student's eyes. We were working closely together and discussing a patient’s treatment plan, the student had a grin from ear to ear when she grasped what I was talking about. It was at that moment that my genuine love of teaching dawned.

My advice to all students is - never stop pursuing opportunities to learn. Never.