

Deakin University

Full name: Amanda Hill

Year graduated from Deakin: 2009

Course name: Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics

Campus: Burwood



Amanda (left) with patient

What is your current job and what does it entail?

I am currently a clinical dietitian at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, which is a specialist public hospital dedicated to the treatment of cancer. I work in the Lung, Gynaecological and Colorectal tumour streams. I manage the nutrition care of both inpatients and outpatients who may be undergoing chemotherapy, radiotherapy or have surgery to treat their cancer or symptoms. My job involves education for patients and their families on appropriate diet during treatment and may also involve artificial feeding (tube feeding or intravenous feeding) for patients who are too unwell to eat.

What are the things you enjoy most about your job and what have been your career highlights to date?

I love working with people. The day to day patient contact is what I enjoy most about my job. It is a great feeling when a patient expresses their gratitude that you have been able to help them in some way during what is a difficult time in their life. Peter Mac is a small hospital, so you get to work closely with the other health professionals in the multidisciplinary team, like doctors, nurses and other allied health, to provide the best care possible for your patients. Working at Peter Mac has also provided me with the opportunity to be involved in clinical research, as research is a strong focus at the hospital. Some career highlights would have to be getting my honours work on the relationship between nutritional status and treatment outcomes in radiotherapy patients published in the Clinical Nutrition journal, and also presenting this work at the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia's conference in 2010.

What do you intend to do in the future?

I am hoping to work overseas at some point and do some more travelling. Though I love working in oncology, I am also keen to get some experience in other areas. It would be great to volunteer on a nutrition project in a developing country. Being a dietitian is such a diverse career- there are so many different opportunities to explore.

How do you feel your Deakin course has helped your career – both in obtaining your current position, and in the future development of your career?

The dietetics course at Deakin includes a strong professional placement component which was the best way to learn and also a great way to network and make a good impression before beginning my career. As part of my course, I was also able to complete an honours research program during my final year. I was lucky enough to be offered a project in my interest area of oncology at Peter Mac. Research skills are highly valued in many workplaces, so I feel the honours program gave me something extra to offer prospective employers, and it is definitely something that helped me gain my current position Peter Mac.