4. Project title:	**Current Nutrition and Dietary Guidelines in Residential Aged Care Facilities and the implications on Oral Health**
Hours of engagement & delivery mode	25 hours per weeks Level 7 Oral Health Centre; School of Dentistry, Herston Campus
Description:	Oral Health and Aged Care Research Project This project forms part of the MRFF Oral Health in Aged Care Research Initiative. It aims to explore current nutrition and dietary guidelines for residents of residential aged care facilities (RACFs) and examine their potential impact on oral health outcomes. This is a literature-based and analytical project. Students will not conduct clinical assessments or handle patient data. Instead, they will review published research and national reports to: 1. Identify the standards/guidance • Identify and summarise current nutrition and dietary guidelines and recommendations relevant to residents living in residential aged care facilities 2. Examine the evidence/current practice • Examine how nutrition and oral health are currently addressed in practice in RACFs, including the challenges of meeting nutritional requirements while maintaining oral health. 3. Identify gaps and opportunities for improvement • Identify gaps between current guidance and reported practice and explore potential strategies to improve the integration of nutritional care and oral health in RACFs. Students will work with the Population Oral Health Team at The University of Queensland to review selected academic literature and national datasets (e.g., ABS and AIHW reports) and synthesise findings relevant to oral health care planning in aged care.
Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:	By the end of the project, students will be able to: Describe key aspects of nutrition and dietary planning in aged care. Identify current nutrition and dietary guidelines relevant to aged care residents. Explain the importance of nutrition and dietary considerations for older adults. Discuss the relationship between nutrition, diet, and oral health among aged care residents. Critically summarise findings in a structured written report. Students will also deliver a short presentation to the research team outlining: Key findings from the literature review. Implications for oral health care in aged care settings. Reflections on their research experience.
Suitable for:	This project is suitable for students in dentistry, oral health, public health, pharmacy, nutrition, or related health disciplines who are interested in aged care, oral health, or oral-systemic health. Students should be comfortable reading academic literature and preparing structured written summaries. No advanced research experience is required. Students will also be expected to attend weekly face-to-face meetings with their supervisory team.
Primary Supervisor:	Dr Lydia See l.see@uq.edu.au

Further info:	The supervisor CAN be contacted by students prior to submission of an application

Summer & Winter Research Program - School of Dentistry - University of Queensland