



Accreditation Summary Report

Program name	Graduate Diploma in Dental Therapy [Grad Dip DT]
Program provider	University of Newcastle
Accredited campus(es)	Central Coast (Ourimbah)
Program length	1 year
Registration category	Dental therapist and/or oral health therapist (with completion of Bachelor of Oral Health)
Qualification type	Higher education – Postgraduate
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	Level 8
Standards version	June 2010, version 1.0
Date of site evaluation	12-13 June 2012
Date of ADC decision	16 November 2012
Accreditation outcome	Re-accreditation with a condition
Accreditation end date	31 December 2017

Background

The Graduate Diploma in Dental Therapy (Grad Dip DT) commenced at the University of Newcastle in 2010.

The 12 month program is offered to eligible dental hygiene graduates wishing to add dental therapy to their scope of practice and to dental therapy graduates wishing to re-enter the workforce.

The last Australian Dental Council (ADC) review of the program occurred in 2010 when the program was accredited with conditions to 31 December 2012. One condition of accreditation was that a further visit by an ADC Site Evaluation Team (SET) occur in the first half of 2012 to assess the suitability of the program for re-accreditation.

Summary of the outcomes of the ADC's accreditation

The SET noted the dedication of program staff and the high level of ongoing support by the University of Newcastle for the School and the Grad Dip DT program. There was evidence that the students and their potential employer groups were satisfied that the program is delivered in a quality assured manner and that the needs of the students, employer groups and the local community are being met.

The ADC found that the School demonstrated a commitment to maintaining a sustainable tutor to student ratio for clinical education. Clinical placements appeared to be working well with NSW Health. The program received support from various health services to assist in preparing students for practice and the ADC acknowledged the strong links between the School and its local community in terms of oral health promotion.

The ADC noted the high quality student case portfolios demonstrating evidence based approaches to treatment planning. Students appeared to be adequately prepared for assessment through the various authentic and integrated learning tasks.

The ADC acknowledged the efforts and achievements of the School and the University in actively recruiting and retaining Indigenous students in the discipline of oral health.

Staff were appointed to the program in line with student intake numbers, however, additional administrative support staff are needed for the daily running of the clinic and simulation laboratory. The School will advise the ADC about progress with the development of facilities that provide increased clinical experience for students.

ADC's accreditation decision

On 16 November 2012 the ADC Board re-accredited the Graduate Diploma of Dental Therapy program at the University of Newcastle until 31 December 2017, subject to the following condition:

Submission of a report to the ADC in December 2012 providing evidence of satisfactory progress of the development of facilities that enable greater access by students to experiential practice, including confirmation that these will be available for use at the start of Semester 2, 2013.

The ADC Board also determined that an accreditation review occur in July/August 2014 as part of monitoring the program's accreditation.