



Accreditation Summary Report

Program name	Bachelor of Dental Surgery [BDS]
Program provider	James Cook University
Accredited campus(es)	Cairns
Program length	5 years
Registration category	Dentist
Qualification type	Higher education - Undergraduate
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	Level 7
Accreditation standards version	June 2010, version 1.0
Date of site evaluation	4-5 June 2012
Date of ADC decision	16 November 2012
Accreditation outcome	Continued accreditation with a condition
Accreditation end date	31 December 2015

Background

James Cook University's (JCU) Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) program commenced in 2009.

The program was first accredited by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in 2008 with further site visits occurring in 2010 and 2012 to review the progress of the program.

This summary relates to the ADC's accreditation outcome following the visit by an ADC Site Evaluation Team (SET) in 2012.

The first graduates of the program are expected at the end of 2013.

Summary of the outcomes of the ADC's accreditation

In carrying out the assessment of the BDS program the SET interviewed a range of individuals, staff groups and committees, students and recent graduates and other stakeholders including professional bodies and the providers of the clinical experience for the program. The SET also visited a number of the clinics utilised in the program. The enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by the student group was noted.

The ADC found that clinical facilities were of high quality, in particular the layout of the clinical facilities and the electronic patient self-serve check-in system, and appeared to fulfil the needs of the students and demonstrators in the program. The facilities planned for 2013 and beyond are considered appropriate and adequate for ongoing student placement.

It was noted that new staff had been appointed for the dental clinic, including dental assistants, administrative support and senior staff. The ADC endorsed the School's decision to appoint a Clinical Placement Coordinator to manage the outplacement program for Year 5 students. The ADC found that development of the School's management structure is needed so that the administrative responsibilities associated with the BDS program are shared into the future.

The ADC reviewed information about the availability of clinical chairs, supervision and contact arrangements for Year 5 placements. The preparation for practice appeared to be a high priority for the School and there appeared to be a constructive relationship between JCU and Queensland Health.

Nevertheless, some areas of the curriculum were identified as needing enhancement, such as geriatric dentistry, special needs dentistry, and appreciation of the role and scope of the all dental team members. Oral surgery was also identified as a clinical area where students required increased experience.

ADC's accreditation decision

On 16 November 2012 the ADC Board determined to continue the accreditation of the Bachelor of Dental Surgery program at James Cook University until 31 December 2015.

The ADC Board also determined that Year 5 clinical placements will be reviewed in 2013 to monitor their adequacy.