



Accreditation Summary Report

Program provider	University of Sydney
Program/qualification name	Bachelor of Oral Health
Program/qualification abbreviation	BOH
Program/qualification code	BUORAHEA1000
Head office address, including State	Sydney, New South Wales
Approved campus(es)	Westmead Centre for Oral Health Sydney Dental Hospital
Program length	3 years
Registration division	Dental hygienist Dental therapist Oral health therapist
Registration specialty	Not applicable
Qualification type [VET or HE]	Higher education - Undergraduate
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	Level 7 – Bachelor degree
Accreditation standards version	June 2010, version 1.0
Date of site evaluation	17-18 September 2012
Date of ADC decision	March 2013
Accreditation outcome	Re-accreditation
Accreditation start date	01 January 2013
Accreditation end date	31 December 2017

Background

The University of Sydney's Bachelor of Oral Health (BOH) program commenced in 2005. A site evaluation by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) took place in 2007. The ADC accredited the program in 2007 until 31 December 2012, with conditions relating to curriculum development.

Accreditation was extended in November 2012 until 31 July 2013 to allow for the site evaluation report to be finalised and the ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee and the ADC Board to consider the program's accreditation status.

Summary of ADC program evaluation

In carrying out the assessment of the BOH, the Site Evaluation Team (SET) interviewed a range of individuals, including staff, students, recent graduates, professional bodies and providers of clinical experience for the program. The SET also visited a number of clinics.

Strengths of the program include the dedication of teaching staff to improving the program, the highly effective admission process and the incorporation of indigenous oral health issues in a way that promotes inter professional education and a focus on teamwork.

While access to clinical chairs and facilities is seen as an ongoing challenge, clinical placements are provided in a range of settings. Details of planned facility upgrades are to be provided to the ADC.

Rural placements provide opportunities for inter professional education but additional work is needed to develop multi-disciplinary team based clinical placements that integrate BOH and DMD students and lead to holistic patient-centred care.

Teaching staff are well qualified and experienced and the school may consider employing more oral health therapists as clinical educators.

The curriculum is generally well balanced and based on the professional, cultural, social and political context of contemporary oral health practice. The ADC has recommended that learning outcomes for the life sciences be more contextualised to the knowledge required by an oral health graduate and suggested that consideration be given to increasing paediatric dentist input into the dental therapy curriculum and to reviewing the special needs dentistry area.

Overall the ADC found that there are no areas of concern regarding the program.

ADC's accreditation decision

In March 2013 the ADC Board re-accredited the University of Sydney Bachelor of Oral Health until 31 December 2017.