

Australian Dental Council Accreditation Monitoring Framework

The Australian Dental Council (ADC) accredits dental programs pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (the National Law). In relation to monitoring the National Law states at Section 50, Division 50 (1):

The accreditation authority that accredited an approved program of study must monitor the program and the education provider that provides the program to ensure the authority continues to be satisfied that program and provider meet an approved accreditation standard for the health profession.

To enable the ongoing monitoring of all accredited programs the ADC will undertake a range of monitoring activities which may include, but not be limited to, the following:

Potential monitoring activities	
1.	Compulsory notification of major changes
2.	Annual reports
3.	Education Data
4.	Graduate outcomes
5.	Website and publication monitoring
6.	Monitoring examination
7.	Stakeholder engagement
8.	Monitoring review
9.	Thematic reviews

1 Compulsory notification of major change

Frequency: As reported

An education provider must notify the ADC in writing of a change to any part of the an accredited program, including curriculum, staffing, clinical exposure for students or other resources as soon as possible where that change has the *potential* to impact on the program's ability to meet the Accreditation Standards. Where possible this change should be reported to the ADC in advance of its occurrence.

It is the responsibility of the Accreditation Committee to determine if what is reported is a major change and if it warrants a re-assessment of the accreditation status of a program. Re-assessment of the accreditation status may take the form of a desk top evaluation or a visit from a Site Evaluation Team.

2 Annual reports

Frequency: Annually

All providers of accredited programs are required to complete an Annual Report that must be submitted to the ADC. Annual reports assist the ADC to track developments in accredited programs and to monitor continued compliance with the Accreditation Standards. The annual report must be submitted using the ADC's pro-forma.

Annual reports are reviewed internally by the ADC Director, Accreditation and ADC accreditation staff, with assistance from the Chair of the Accreditation Committee, other members of the Accreditation Committee and ADC assessors where required. A monitoring report will be prepared for the Accreditation Committee following an analysis of all the annual reports. Any issues or irregularities will be brought to the Accreditation Committee's attention.

3 Education data

Frequency: Periodic

The ADC regularly reviews data from a range of external sources on Australian dental programs accredited by ADC. This is used to inform the ADC processes or prompt further investigations of programs.

4 Graduate outcomes

Frequency: Periodic

The ADC gathers data from newly registered dental practitioners to obtain qualitative feedback regarding their education, clinical experience and other issues relevant to their education and training.

5 Website and publication monitoring

Frequency: Ongoing

By scanning relevant publications and websites, all providers of accredited programs are regularly monitored regarding recruitment, information to students and proposed changes or new programs offered.

6 Monitoring examination

Frequency: Annual

From 2016 ADC introduced a voluntary annual Monitoring Examination for dental programs. Those education providers who wish to do so may offer the Examination to their final year dental students at the mid-point of the final year. ADC provides de-identified feedback to participating schools on the performance of students and of the performance of their student cohort against the wider (de-identified) group of participants.

ADC may monitor the performance of schools in the Examination as an indicator of whether the program continues to meet the Accreditation Standards.

7 Stakeholder engagement

Frequency: Ongoing

The ADC liaises with a wide range of stakeholders in the accreditation process including regulators, professional and representative bodies and other health professions. Through relationships with these stakeholders the ADC aims to monitor the performance of education providers and programs. Should the information obtained by the ADC warrant further investigation, the provider involved is contacted formally. Where necessary, further monitoring of the program may be required using one of the mechanisms described in the Monitoring Framework.

8 Monitoring review

Frequency: As arises

Where the ADC becomes aware of a matter that may pose a significant risk to a program's ability to meet the Accreditation Standards the ADC may conduct an out-of-cycle monitoring review of a program. The review may be paper based, via a site visit or through combination of both.

9 Thematic review

Frequency: As arises

The ADC may conduct a thematic review of an issue or a number of issues within the dental profession that are relevant to compliance with the accreditation standards and/or to the quality improvement of programs. Thematic reviews may be reviewed against all providers or a subset of providers depending on the theme being reviewed.

Themes to be reviewed may be chosen by the ADC Board from time to time based on: significant matters brought to the Board's attention by key stakeholders; matters of significant public concern regarding the dental profession; or common issues that are revealed through an analysis of ADC accreditation reports or decisions and which would benefit from further review.

For example, the ADC may decide to review admission policies for specialist programs if a number of specialist societies and/or academies raised significant concerns in this area, or to review the teaching of adult scope in oral health therapy programs to address a lack of public understanding in this area.

The ADC does not conduct thematic reviews of matters that are not related to the accreditation standards, for example matters to do with workforce participation by dental practitioner graduates.