



**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL  
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF  
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY  
BACHELOR OF ORAL HEALTH**

**March 2015**

# SUMMARY REPORT

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Program provider</b>	Central Queensland University
<b>Program/qualification name</b>	Bachelor of Oral Health
<b>Program/qualification abbreviation</b>	BOralHlth
<b>Program/qualification code</b>	CB29
<b>Head office address, including State</b>	Bruce Hwy, North Rockhampton QLD 4702
<b>Campus</b>	Central Queensland University, Bruce Hwy, North Rockhampton QLD 4702
<b>Program length</b>	3 Years
<b>Registration division</b>	Dental Hygienist , Dental Therapist , Oral Health Therapist
<b>Registration specialty</b>	NA
<b>Qualification type</b>	HE
<b>Australian Qualifications Framework Level</b>	Level 7
<b>Accreditation standards version</b>	June 2010 Version 1.0
<b>Date of site evaluation</b>	18 - 19 March 2015
<b>Date of ADC decision</b>	15 May 2015
<b>Type of accreditation</b>	Re-accreditation
<b>Accreditation start date</b>	1 January 2016
<b>Accreditation end date</b>	31 December 2020

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## Background

The ADC first undertook an accreditation review of the CQU BOraHlth program in June 2011. The program was subsequently accredited until December 2014 with the first intake of students beginning their studies in early 2012.

Initial accreditation was subject to three conditions:

- (a) submission of reports to the ADC providing evidence that the program is making satisfactory progress in relation to staffing, facilities and clinical placement opportunities, to be provided at the end of each quarter in 2012 and at intervals to be specified by the ADC in subsequent years;
- (b) submission of six-monthly reports to the ADC demonstrating satisfactory progress in addressing all recommendations in the accreditation report;
- (c) a further visit involving a detailed assessment by an ADC Accreditation Review Team to occur in July/August 2012.

A further site visit was undertaken in September 2013 with a focus on clinical facilities and student clinical learning, while annual reports were provided to the ADC in 2013 and 2014. Following the September 2013 monitoring visit, the ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee extended accreditation of the program until 31 December 2015. All conditions imposed by the Dental Board of Australia, including those related to adult scope, had been satisfied prior to the March 2015 site visit.

The BOraHlth program is a three year course that will enable graduates to register as dental therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists. The program also aims to equip graduates with the knowledge and skills required to practice dental therapy on persons of all ages.

## Overview of the Evaluation

The SET undertook a site visit to the CQU campus in Rockhampton on 18 and 19 March 2015. During the visit, meetings were held with:

- The Vice Chancellor, Dean & Head of School of Health, Head of Program and the Discipline Lead
- Year 1-3 course co-ordinators
- The Health Clinic Manager and staff
- A range of academics teaching into the program
- Students from years 1, 2 and 3 of the program, including those studying via the flex option
- Graduates from the 2014 graduating cohort
- Representatives from the Program Reference Committee

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- The Chief Dental Officer of Queensland Health and the Executive Director, Division of Sub-Acute & Community Services Central Queensland Hospital & Health Services
- Representatives from ADOHTA, DHAA and the ADA

During the site visit the SET also visited the Stage 1 and Stage 2 health clinics on campus and the Queensland Health dental clinic at Allenstown, where they witnessed students from the program working with patients, the on campus simulation laboratory and the prosthetics laboratory.

Prior to, and during, the site visit the SET reviewed a range of documentation including curriculum information and course outlines, student log books, examination papers and staff CVs.

## Key Findings

The program continues to develop and mature and graduated its first cohort of students at the end of 2014, all of whom have found employment in appropriate dental roles. There is strong support for the program from senior staff within the university and the wider community.

The completion of the 'Stage 2' health clinic will make a further six chairs available to students in the program, providing them with twelve on campus chairs in total. These are supported by the provision of a further six chairs in local clinics by Queensland Health. The on campus facilities provide students with a good breadth of exposure to both public and private patients as well as encouraging an inter-disciplinary approach to patient care.

While students have access to a wide range of patients and experiences, including adult scope, and a satisfactory number of total clinical hours as an operator the SET was concerned about the limited pre-clinical activities and time dedicated to periodontal assessment, treatment and management to enable students to effectively manage the complexity of their patients' needs. A condition is proposed to address this issue.

Particular attention was paid by the SET to ensure that the minimum modalities as identified by the DBA for oral health therapists to practice dental therapy on persons of all ages were met. The evidence presented indicates that the BOralHlth program is capable of equipping graduates with the required knowledge to safely practice oral health therapy, including adult scope of dental therapy on persons of all ages.

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The School is to be commended on its inclusive admission processes which reserve five places in each intake for students entering through the STEPS and TEPS programs, which are aimed at students not holding the academic qualifications for standard entry (STEPS) and those from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities (TEPS). The flexible first year of the program has also allowed access to students who might otherwise have struggled to participate in a higher education program.

## ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that Central Queensland University's Bachelor of Oral Health program is re-accredited for a period of five years until **31 December 2020** subject to the following condition:

In order to fully meet Standard 8 – Curriculum and Standard 11 – Preparation for Practice, the University:

Must provide additional pre-clinical activities related to periodontal assessment, charting and patient management, including instrumentation. The complexity of periodontal assessment and management should be reflected and supported in the workbooks and clinical items of care.

Specifically:

- a) By **31 August 2015** the university provides to the ADC an outline of additional activities and changes to workbooks to be introduced
- b) By **30 November 2015** the university provides to the ADC a summary of clinical items of care, including location, year level and reporting period.