



Australian  
Dental  
Council

**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL  
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF  
  
CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY  
BACHELOR OF DENTAL SCIENCE**

**September 2014**

# SUMMARY REPORT

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Program provider</b>	Charles Sturt University
<b>Program/qualification name</b>	Bachelor of Dental Science
<b>Program/qualification abbreviation</b>	BDentSc
<b>Program/qualification code</b>	4409DS
<b>Head office address, including State</b>	Leeds Parade, Orange NSW 2800
<b>Campuses</b>	Orange, Bathurst, Wagga Wagga, Dubbo, Albury, NSW
<b>Program length</b>	5 years
<b>Registration division</b>	Dentist
<b>Registration specialty</b>	NA
<b>Qualification type</b>	HE
<b>Australian Qualifications Framework Level</b>	Level 7
<b>Accreditation standards version</b>	Version 1.0, June 2010
<b>Date of site evaluation</b>	16 - 17 September 2014
<b>Date of ADC decision</b>	31 October 2014
<b>Type of accreditation</b>	Re-accreditation
<b>Accreditation start date</b>	1 January 2015
<b>Accreditation end date</b>	31 December 2021

# SUMMARY REPORT

## Background

Charles Sturt University's (CSU's) Bachelor of Dental Science (BDentSc) program commenced in 2009 with the first cohort of students graduating in 2013. The program was visited in 2009, 2010, 2011 and in 2012 each time as a condition of accreditation. Following the last visit in July 2012 accreditation was continued without conditions until 31 December 2015.

The BDentSc program is a five year, full time program that enables graduates to register with the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) as Dentists.

The Australian Dental Council (ADC) requested that the visit to reaccredit the BDentSc program be brought forward to the second half of 2014 due to the number of programs to be assessed for reaccredited in 2015.

## Overview of the Evaluation

An ADC Site Evaluation Team (SET) conducted a site visit on 16 and 17 September 2014 to the School of Dentistry and Health Sciences at the CSU's Orange Campus. The SET inspected clinical and learning and teaching facilities at the Orange campus. Students were observed in the clinic with patients. The SET also visited CSU's clinical facilities on the Bathurst Campus.

The SET reviewed the School's self-review against the Standards, attached appendices and additional information requested prior to the visit.

The SET interviewed a range of stakeholders, including:

- The Head of School
- The Associate Head of School
- The School Office Manager and Faculty of Science Manager
- Year level coordinators
- Other academic and clinical staff that teach into or assist with the program
- Administrative and support staff
- The Clinical Director
- Clinical Placements Officer
- Clinical Support Staff

# SUMMARY REPORT

- Nine students and one graduate from the BDentSc program
- The Executive Dean, Faculty of Science
- The CEO of the Centre Oral Health Strategy
- Representatives from the Oral Health Services Western Local Health District
- Representatives of the Australian Dental Association (ADA)

During the site visit the SET was provided with further documentation including samples of clinical log books, access to clinical logs and external examiner reports.

The findings in this report are based on the SET's assessment of the material outlined above, interview evidence and a review of the facilities at the time of the site visit.

## Key Findings

The School of Dentistry and Health Sciences is to be congratulated on the development of the program since the program commenced in 2009. The evidence collected by the SET indicates that the program is preparing students with the attributes and competencies required for solo practice after graduation.

The facilities viewed by the SET are appropriate for clinical training and the School is to be commended on the consistency of clinical placements across a complex multi-campus environment. The School has continued to increase its staffing profile as the program has rolled out and the SET was encouraged by the recent recruitment of staff with higher degrees by research. The School is encouraged to continue to develop its research credentials to strengthen the program and to further develop students understanding of scientific methodology. Consideration should also be given to how the curriculum could be further vertically integrated, particularly by reintroducing basic sciences in later years to enhance the clinical decision making of students.

The School will need to continue to recruit specialist practitioners, particularly in periodontics, endodontics, paediatric and special needs dentistry to further enhance the clinical competency of students in these areas, but overall the program is working well and achieving its educational objectives.

# SUMMARY REPORT

## ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that Charles Sturt University's Bachelor of Dental Science program is re-accredited for a period of seven (7) years without conditions until 31 December 2021.