



Australian  
Dental  
Council

**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL**

**ACCREDITATION SUMMARY REPORT**

**GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY**

**MASTER OF DENTAL TECHNOLOGY IN PROSTHETICS**

# SUMMARY REPORT

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Program provider</b>	Griffith University
<b>Program/qualification name</b>	Master of Dental Technology in Prosthetics
<b>Program/qualification abbreviation</b>	MDentTech
<b>Program/qualification code</b>	5402
<b>Head office address, including State</b>	Gold Coast campus, Queensland 4222
<b>Approved campus</b>	Griffith Health Centre, School of Dentistry and Oral Health, Level 7, Parklands Drive, Gold Coast Campus
<b>Program length</b>	1 year
<b>Registration division</b>	Dental Prosthetist
<b>Registration specialty</b>	N/A
<b>Qualification type</b>	Higher Education
<b>Australian Qualifications Framework Level</b>	Level 9
<b>Accreditation standards version</b>	September 2011 Updated December 2012 - Version 1.2
<b>Date of site evaluation</b>	4 - 5 June 2014
<b>Date of ADC decision</b>	8 August 2014
<b>Type of accreditation</b>	Initial Accreditation
<b>Accreditation start date</b>	8 August 2014
<b>Accreditation end date</b>	31 December 2015

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## Background

This report is a report of the evaluation of the Griffith University Master of Dental Technology in Prosthetics (MDentTech) conducted by an Australian Dental Council (ADC) Site Evaluation Team (SET). The MDentTech qualifies graduates to practise as a dental prosthetists.

The MDentTech commenced in 2005 and graduates of the program are currently eligible for registration with the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) under transitional arrangements that applied to all dental prosthetist programs that were being taught at the time the Australian Health Practitioner National Law Act (2009) came into effect in all jurisdictions. These arrangements have allowed for the registration of graduates pending ADC accreditation of the program. This is therefore the first ADC accreditation evaluation of the MDentTech program.

This report concerns the MDentTech as it is currently being taught. The University is now teaching out this program. Enrolments were taken into the program in 2014 but there will be no further enrolments.

Griffith University is also seeking accreditation of Graduate Diploma of Dental Technology in Prosthetics and a newly revised MDentTech program. These will be subject to a different report.

## Overview of the Evaluation

An ADC Site Evaluation Team (SET) conducted a site visit to the Griffith University Gold Coast campus from 4-5 June 2014. The SET inspected clinical and learning and teaching facilities at the Griffith Health Centre. Students were observed in the clinic with patients.

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 staff during the site visit including academic staff, clinical demonstrators, administrative and support staff, current students, graduates, dental clinic staff and other stakeholders.

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.

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## Key Findings

The team based treatment planning approach is an excellent aspect of the program and encourages interprofessional relationships. Academic and support staff are enthusiastic and committed, as are students. This, coupled with world class facilities, is producing competent graduates.

While there is a defined admission process it is not being applied consistently, with some students undergoing an interview and even a skills test, while other students have not been subject to either requirement. The SET is aware that students will no longer be admitted to the MDentTech as it is currently being taught out and therefore this admission process is no longer applicable.

The team has identified issues to do with application of clinical protocols and these will need to be addressed. There is a need to apply to dental prosthetist students the same protocols that apply to dentistry students in view of their patient contact.

The support documentation to the submission, including the documentation provided onsite, was inconsistent with interview evidence and the current program structure as outlined in the submission. It was difficult for the SET to gain a clear picture of the structure and content of the MDentTech program as currently taught, and how this differs from the Graduate Diploma of Dental Technology in Prosthetics and the new MDentTech. This will need to be rectified.

Given the dependency of the program on the Program Convenor, the Program Convenor would benefit from increased clinical staff to cover for contingencies, for example absences of the Program Convenor.

Whilst the numbers of patients that the students are getting access to is satisfactory, some control of case type, to ensure a broad scope of practice, would benefit students. Given students are qualified technicians, and they have a dedicated postgraduate area in the dental laboratory, consideration should be given to allow them to have independent access to the laboratory.

## ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that Griffith University's Master of Dental Technology in Prosthetics program as currently taught is accredited from 8 August 2014 until 31 December 2015 to allow for the completion of the final student cohort, subject to the following conditions:

That by 31 August 2014 Griffith University provides:

1. A curriculum document that reflects what is currently being taught to students and which confirms that students are being provided with the underpinning skills and knowledge required for practice.

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2. Evidence that protocols which ensure that the students have appropriate pre-clinical clearance, for example registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and confirmation of HIV/Hepatitis B & C status are in place and being implemented.