



Accreditation Summary report

Program provider	James Cook University
Program/qualification name	Bachelor of Dental Surgery
Program/qualification abbreviation	BDS
Program/qualification code	73010
Head office address, including State	James Cook University McGregor Road, Smithfield, Cairns, Qld 4870
Approved campus(es)	Cairns
Program length	5 Years
Registration division	Dentist
Registration specialty	Not applicable
Qualification type	Higher Education - Undergraduate
Program type & AQF level	Bachelor degree – AQF Level 7
Accreditation standards version	June 2010, version 1.0
Date of site evaluation	14-16 August 2013
Date of ADC decision	19 December 2013
Type of accreditation	Monitoring visit
Accreditation start date	1 January 2009
Accreditation end date	31 December 2015

Background

James Cook University's (JCU) Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) is a five year bachelor degree, which was granted accreditation as new program in November 2008. The accreditation was granted subject to conditions requiring ongoing reporting to the Australian Dental Council (ADC) with a further visit scheduled for 2010 prior to the commencement of the students' clinical experience. The outcome of the 2010 visit was for accreditation to be granted until 31 December 2015 subject to a further visit in 2012 to review the Year five clinical facilities.

The ADC last visited the program in June 2012 at which time it was determined that the Year five clinical placements were to be reviewed in 2013.

The first graduates are expected to complete the program at the end of 2013 at which time they are eligible to apply for registration with the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) as dentists.

JCU's program is based at the Cairns campus. Year 5 students complete two clinical rotations at outplacement clinics, one of 20 weeks and one of 15 weeks across a variety of locations supported by Queensland Health, Northern Territory Health and the JCU Dental clinic in Cairns. An optional international placement is also offered.

Summary of the ADC program evaluation

The Site Evaluation Team (SET) visited JCU's Townsville campus on 14 August 2013 and toured the new facilities at JCU Dental Clinic.

The following outplacement locations were also visited on the 14–16 August:

- Queensland Health Kirwan Dental Clinic, Kirwan, Queensland
- Mt Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health, Mt Isa, Queensland
- Mt Isa Dental Clinic, Mt Isa Hospital, Mt Isa Queensland
- Northern Territory Oral Health Services, Casuarina, Northern Territory

The SET were provided with a comprehensive written submission prior to the visit as well as further documentation requested and supplied during the visit.

The overall approach by JCU to the diversity of outplacement opportunities and the variety of experiences this affords students is to be commended and represents a strength of the program. Students appear to receive an excellent range of experiences in a diverse range of settings, ensuring they are well prepared to operate as solo practitioners.

Furthermore, the support provided by JCU to students during these outplacements is highly commendable. The facilities visited were of an excellent standard for patients, students and supervisors.

The ADC recommends that JCU improve the consistency across the outplacement clinics in areas such as, but not limited to, supervisor training, roles and responsibilities of supervisors, continuous professional development (CPD) and multidisciplinary activities. JCU should also consider regularly engaging with Queensland Health staff supervising students to increase their understanding of teaching methods and the JCU philosophy.

ADC Accrediation Decision

The ADC has determined that James Cook University's Bachelor of Dental Surgery program has met all conditions of accreditation and that accreditation is maintained until 31 December 2015.