



Australian  
Dental  
Council

**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL  
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF  
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS OF AUSTRALASIA  
FELLOWSHIP OF THE FACULTY OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL  
PATHOLOGY (FELLOWSHIP IN FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY)  
PROGRAM**

**December 2016**

# SUMMARY REPORT

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Program provider</b>	Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
<b>Program/qualification name</b>	Fellowship of the Faculty of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
<b>Program/qualification abbreviation</b>	FFOMP (RCPA)
<b>Program/qualification code</b>	N/A
<b>Head office address, including State</b>	Durham Hall, 207 Albion Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010
<b>Campuses</b>	Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, Forensic and Analytical Science Service
<b>Program length</b>	5 Years
<b>Registration division</b>	Specialist Dentist
<b>Registration specialty</b>	Forensic Odontology
<b>Qualification type</b>	Fellowship
<b>Australian Qualifications Framework Level</b>	N/A
<b>Accreditation standards version</b>	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
<b>Date of site evaluation</b>	6 - 7 December 2016
<b>Date of ADC decision</b>	6 March 2017
<b>Type of accreditation</b>	Initial Accreditation
<b>Accreditation start date</b>	10 February 2017
<b>Accreditation end date</b>	31 December 2021

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## Background

The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) has requested the Australian Dental Council (ADC) review the newly developed Fellowship of the Faculty of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology (FFOMP) program that would enable graduates to apply for registration with the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) as specialists in forensic odontology.

The FFOMP program is not required to comply with Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency's (TEQSA's) Higher Education Standards as the program does not lead to an award within the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). The FFOMP is a five year program based on a situated learning model of course delivery. Trainees in the program will be required to be located at training sites accredited by the RCPA and supervised by Fellows of the College.

## Overview of the Evaluation

The Site Evaluation Team (SET) reviewed the RCPA's 38 page submission against the Accreditation Standards, associated appendices and additional information provided following the SET teleconference held on 26 October 2016. The SET undertook a site visit to the College on 6 and 7 December 2016. The SET reviewed the proposed training sites at the Forensic and Analytical Science Service (FASS) in Glebe on the 6 December 2016 and the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM), Southbank on the 7 December 2016.

During the visit meetings were held with:

- CEO and Deputy CEO, RCPA
- General Manager, Operations
- Director, Education and Accreditation
- Curriculum and Assessment Development Officer
- Principal Examiner, Forensic Odontology
- Chair and Deputy Chair of the Faculty of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Committee
- Chair, Board of Education and Assessment and representative of the Board of Directors
- Statewide Directors and senior staff responsible for the operation of facilities where trainees may be located

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- Forensic odontologists responsible for supervising trainees
- Other members of staff involved in the training program
- A prospective trainee

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 College has developed a situational training program based on the model used in the training of medical specialists.

The facilities accredited by the RCPA as training sites are appropriate for the training of Forensic Odontologists and the proposed supervisors are well qualified to support trainees in the development of the skills and knowledge needed for specialist practice. The trainee handbook provides trainees with the expected program outcomes, examples of activities that may be undertaken to achieve these outcomes and details of the assessments to be completed to be awarded fellowship.

It is the responsibility of supervisors in consultation with trainees to develop an individualised program that will provide trainees with the required experience in all areas of the specialty and to present this to the College as part of the annual training plan. This includes identifying opportunities for trainees to undertake academic course work such as Monash University's Master of Forensic Medicine program (or similar) to develop the scientific and technical aspects of forensic odontology necessary for specialist practice.

The SET is concerned that trainees may not undertake any academic coursework and that this risks trainees not developing the underlying knowledge of scientific and medico-legal principles required for the discipline. The SET was unclear as to how the College's processes would address such deficiencies in a trainee's proposed program prior to undertaking the Part I examination, particularly given that the Part I examination may be delayed for a significant portion of the program. This would put the trainee at a significant disadvantage and the College will need to demonstrate how such a circumstance would be addressed.

The SET commends the RCPA for the development of the first program designed to enable graduates to apply for registration as specialists in Forensic Odontology.

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## ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC determined that the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia's Fellowship of the Faculty of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology program is accredited from **10 February 2017** until **31 December 2021** subject to the following condition:

- 1) The RCPA is to provide a report on the steps taken to ensure trainees undertake a formal program to develop the foundation scientific and medico-legal knowledge required for specialist practice in Forensic Odontology by **31 August 2017**.

As a monitoring requirement a further visit be undertaken when the first trainee is in the second year of the program to ensure that the program is rolling out as detailed in the College's submission.