



**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL**  
**ACCREDITATION SUMMARY REPORT**  
**RMIT UNIVERSITY**  
**ADVANCED DIPLOMA OF ORAL HEALTH (DENTAL HYGIENE)**  
**JUNE 2014**

# SUMMARY REPORT

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Program provider</b>	RMIT University
<b>Program/qualification name</b>	Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene)
<b>Program/qualification abbreviation</b>	ADOH
<b>Program/qualification code</b>	C6119 (National Curriculum Code 40633SA)
<b>Head office address, including State</b>	RMIT Dental Health Building 154, Level 3 720 Swanston Street Carlton 3054
<b>Approved campus</b>	City Campus
<b>Program length</b>	2 years
<b>Registration division</b>	Dental Hygienist
<b>Registration specialty</b>	NA
<b>Qualification type</b>	VET
<b>Australian Qualifications Framework Level</b>	Level 6
<b>Accreditation standards version</b>	June 2010 Version 1.0
<b>Date of site evaluation</b>	11 - 12 June 2014
<b>Date of ADC decision</b>	8 August 2014
<b>Type of accreditation</b>	Re-accreditation
<b>Accreditation start date</b>	1 January 2015
<b>Accreditation end date</b>	31 December 2017

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## Background

The Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene) (ADOH) commenced in 2013, with the first cohort of students set to Graduate at the end of 2014. The Program was initially accredited for a period of two years, with four conditions, including that a site visit be conducted in 2013. All conditions of the previous accreditation visit have been met.

The ADOH program is a two year, full time course and graduates will be eligible to register with the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) as dental hygienists. The program is based on the ADOH curriculum purchased from TAFE SA in 2010. The ADOH program is also accredited within the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector and therefore needs to meet both the ADC and the Australian Skills Quality Authority's (ASQA's) accreditation requirements.

## Overview of the evaluation

An Australian Dental Council (ADC) Site Evaluation Team (SET) conducted a site visit on 11 and 12 June 2014 to the School of Life and Physical Sciences – Dental Department at the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne (RDHM). The SET inspected clinical and learning and teaching facilities. 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 site visit.

The SET interviewed a range of stakeholders, including:

- The Acting Head of School
- The Deputy Head of School
- The Program Manager Dental Health
- The ADOH Program Coordinator
- Other academic and clinical staff that teach into or assist with the program
- Administrative and support staff
- Twelve current students
- A representative from the Dental Hygienists' Association of Australia
- A representative of the Program Advisory Committee
- A director from Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV)

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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

RMIT University is to be commended on a range of improvements made since the previous accreditation visit. The SET is encouraged by the introduction of the role of Deputy Heads of School to provide support to staff and the outreach clinic at Robinvale provides a unique and valuable learning experience for students. The program co-ordinator has recently changed and further staffing appointments have been made since the previous accreditation visit in 2013.

Further development of the curriculum is required to ensure that the underpinning knowledge is further developed to inform clinical decision making. RMIT University will need to incorporate external examiners into the final examination of the first cohort of students due to graduate at the end of second semester to reassure the ADC that they have developed the required competencies of a newly graduated dental hygienist. Furthermore, RMIT University must further develop a clear assessment plan spanning the two years of the program to demonstrate that the course is meeting its educational objectives.

## ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that RMIT University's Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene) program is re-accredited for a period of three (3) years until **31 December 2017** subject to the following conditions:

1. That RMIT University incorporates external examiners approved by the ADC into a summative assessment at the end of the second year, with the examiners to provide a report to the ADC verifying that students have developed the competencies expected of a newly graduated dental hygienist.
2. That RMIT University provide a report to the ADC by **30 September 2014** demonstrating:
  - a. an assessment plan for the two years of the program indicating the timing, type and duration of each assessment;

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- b. evidence of curriculum integration into elements with defined learning outcomes that are mapped to the attributes and competencies of a newly qualified dental hygienist;
- c. evidence that a suitably qualified staff member has ongoing involvement in the delivery of periodontology.