



**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF
RMIT UNIVERSITY
ADVANCED DIPLOMA OF DENTAL PROSTHETICS
PROGRAM**

October 2016

SUMMARY REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program provider	RMIT University
Program/qualification name	Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics
Program/qualification abbreviation	Adv Dip Dent Pros
Program/qualification code	C6123
Head office address, including State	RMIT University, GPO Box 2476, Melbourne VIC 3001
Campus	Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne
Program length	2 Years
Registration division	Dental Prosthetist
Registration specialty	N/A
Qualification type	Advanced Diploma
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	Level 6
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
Date of site evaluation	6 - 7 October 2016
Date of ADC decision	11 November 2016
Type of accreditation	Re-Accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2017
Accreditation end date	31 December 2021

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Background

RMIT University's Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics (ADDP) program was first accredited by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in 2013. The ADDP was accredited for a period of three (3) years from 9 August 2013 until 8 August 2016. As a monitoring requirement for the program, RMIT University was required to provide an annual report to the ADC by 30 November 2013 reporting in detail on how it would address the following recommendations:

- 11.1 It is recommended RMIT adopt a more structured approach to case allocation to ensure that the range of clinical cases for each student is increased and that all students receive some training in all areas of practice.
- 11.2 It is recommended that RMIT increase student clinical face to face time to a minimum of four hours per week so as to increase the number of patients students see through the life of the program.

RMIT University responded to the reporting requirements as part of the 2013 annual report, with a further update on recommendation 11.2 provided in the program's 2014 annual report.

In July 2015, RMIT University requested an extension of accreditation of the ADDP to enable planning to be undertaken to transition to the new qualification that was scheduled for endorsement in late 2015. As a qualification that is part of the National Health Training Package, a major review of the qualification on which the program is based was undertaken by the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council. The revised National Health Training Package was endorsed in late 2015 and as a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) within the Vocational and Education Training (VET) sector, RMIT University is required to transition from the old qualification (HLT60412) to the new qualification (HLT65015) within 12 months of the revised training package's endorsement.

In September 2015, the ADC agreed to extend accreditation of RMIT University's ADDP program until 8 August 2017 to enable RMIT University to develop plans to implement the revised training package.

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Overview of the Evaluation

The Site Evaluation Team (SET) received RMIT University's 67-page submission against the Accreditation Standards and various appendices. The SET undertook a site visit to the University on 6 and 7 October 2016. During the visit meetings were held with:

- Executive Dean, School of Vocational Engineering, Health & Sciences
- Deputy Dean Learning & Teaching, Health, Science and Industry Programs
- Associate Dean Industry Programs
- Program Co-ordinator/Manager RMIT Dental
- School administrative and support staff
- Staff responsible to teaching the program
- Clinical demonstrators
- Clinical dental staff from the Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne (RDHM)
- A representative group of students
- Recent graduates of the program
- Senior staff from the RDHM
- Members of the curriculum committee
- A representative of the Australian Dental Prosthetist Association (ADPA).

The SET also toured the facilities within the RDHM and met with a range of clinical staff.

During the visit, the SET were provided with further documentation including student clinical log books, examples or research assignments, proposed timetables for the 2017 year and data from patient satisfaction surveys.

The findings of 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

RMIT University has recently undertaken a restructure, with the consolidation of schools occurring as of 1 July 2016. RMIT Dental is now part of the School of Vocational Engineering, Health & Sciences and a new management structure has been put in place. The new management structure is supportive of the ADDP program. Evidence gathered by the SET indicates that staff and students are expected to uphold a high level of professionalism and the program is well placed to deliver on its educational objectives moving forward.

Clinical sessions are undertaken at the RDHM, operated by Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV). The facilities are well maintained and the increase in chair availability from eight chairs in 2016 to twelve chairs from 2017 will ensure students have increased opportunity for clinical experience. The SET were unable to confirm that all students had presented evidence of their vaccination history and that all students were aware of their blood borne virus status prior to undertaking clinical training. This issue will need to be addressed urgently and RMIT University will need to ensure that the processes in place have been followed. Information provided to prospective students must also clearly outline vaccination and screening requirements, including for blood borne viruses.

Considerable work has been put into the implementation of the revised training package. Timetables planned for 2017 were reviewed by the SET and appear appropriate to ensure students will gain the necessary underlying knowledge and competencies prior to transitioning into the clinical environment. RMIT University is encouraged to further develop and implement appropriate moderation procedures to ensure consistent student clinical assessment as well as to look for further opportunities for external input into the program, including from external stakeholders such as the ADPA.

ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that RMIT University's Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics program is accredited until **31 December 2021** subject to the following condition:

In order to meet Standard 1- Public Safety in full RMIT University is required to report to the ADC by **30 November 2016** the processes it has put in place to ensure all currently enrolled students have completed necessary vaccinations and blood borne virus screening prior to returning to the clinical environment. The report should also detail the information that will be provided to students commencing in 2017 regarding requirements for immunisation and screening for blood borne viruses.