



**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF
TAFE NSW SYDNEY INSTITUTE
ADVANCED DIPLOMA OF DENTAL PROSTHETICS
PROGRAM**

November 2016

SUMMARY REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program provider	TAFE NSW Sydney Institute
Program/qualification name	Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics
Program/qualification abbreviation	Adv Dip Dent Pros
Program/qualification code	HLT65015
Head office address, including State	Randwick College, Darley Road, Randwick, NSW 2013
Campuses	Randwick, Sydney Dental Hospital
Program length	2 Years Part Time
Registration division	Dental Prosthetist
Registration specialty	NA
Qualification type	Advanced Diploma
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	6
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
Date of site evaluation	Not Applicable – Paper Based Review
Date of ADC decision	13 December 2016
Type of accreditation	Monitoring - Conditions
Accreditation start date	9 August 2013
Accreditation end date	8 August 2018

SUMMARY REPORT

Background

TAFE NSW Sydney Institute's Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics (ADDP) program was first accredited by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in 2013, at which point it was accredited for five years subject to two conditions. Condition 1, which has subsequently been determined to be met, required a report be submitted to the ADC demonstrating that standardised application and admission policies and procedures had been put in place.

Condition 2 required that a further review of the program occur in three (3) years to assess the implementation of the new training package against Standards 8, 11 and 12. This condition was revised in February 2016 to align with the recently implemented *ADC/Dental Council (New Zealand) (DC(NZ)) Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs* and requires that a further review of the program occur in three years (from the start of the accreditation period) to assess the implementation of the new training package to ensure that the program continues to comply with the Accreditation Standards.

As a course in the Vocational and Educational Training (VET) sector, the ADDP program is regulated by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) and providers offering the program must comply with the *Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015*. The qualification on which the ADDP program was accredited in 2013, HLT60412, has been superseded by the new qualification HLT65015 and all providers must transition to the new program if they wish to continue to offer the course.

TAFE NSW Sydney Institute submitted a report to the ADC advising of the introduction of the revised training packaged in July 2016. The report was considered by the ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee at its August 2016 meeting and it was determined that the change constituted a major change to an accredited program. The ADC determined that a paper based review of the ADDP program be undertaken against Accreditation Standards 1 – Public Safety, 3 – Program of Study and 5 – Assessment to ensure the program continues to meet the Accreditation Standards.

Overview of the Evaluation

A paper based review was undertaken by a Site Evaluation Team (SET) of TAFE NSW Sydney Institute's 104 page submission of the major change to the ADDP program. Additional information was also requested following the SET's teleconference of 4 October 2016.

The findings in this report are based on the SET's assessment of the material outlined above, the 2014, 2015 and 2016 annual reports submitted for the program and the 2013 ADC Report of an evaluation of TAFE NSW Sydney Institute's ADDP program.

SUMMARY REPORT

Key Findings

The SET determined that overall the clinical elements of the program are strong, with a student to staff ratio in clinic of three to one and clinical facilities based on the 2013 review appropriate for the delivery of the program. The evidence presented to the SET indicates that the dental prosthetists employed to deliver the program are appropriately qualified for the units of competency that they teach and assess.

The assessment methods appear appropriate for the skills assessed and information provided to the SET indicates that assessments are validated and moderated, however evidence of how this is achieved was not presented.

Concerns were identified that students are introduced into the clinical environment without having the requisite amount of underpinning knowledge required for clinical decision making. The SET was unable to determine if the underpinning knowledge required for clinical decision making would be developed to a sufficient level throughout the program based on the revised curriculum and the timetable provided to the SET.

The educational philosophy underpinning the program does not appear to be delivered to its full potential as opportunities for intra and inter professional learning appear limited. TAFE NSW advises that the distinct needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in relation to oral health care provision are covered in the lectures and assessed in the written assessments in all the modules, however the SET did not see evidence of this from the information provided.

ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that the major change to TAFE NSW Sydney Institute's Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics program is accepted and that accreditation is continued until **8 August 2018** subject to the following condition:

1. In order to demonstrate that Standard 3 – Program of Study is met, TAFE NSW Sydney Institute must provide a detailed timetable for the five stages of the program. The detailed timetable should include:
 - a. the time spent in clinic and associated with the didactic elements of the program
 - b. the topics included in lectures/seminars each week that demonstrates that students are provided with the necessary underpinning clinical knowledge required for clinical decision making
 - c. the staff member responsible for delivering the didactic element of the program within the timetable to be included.

The timetable is to be provided no later than **20 January 2017**.