



Australian
Dental
Council

**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF
TAFE SA
ADVANCED DIPLOMA OF ORAL HEALTH (DENTAL HYGIENE)
PROGRAM**

July 2016

SUMMARY REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program provider	TAFE SA
Program/qualification name	Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene)
Program/qualification abbreviation	ADOH(DH)
Program/qualification code	40633SA
Head office address, including State	33 Blacks Road, Gilles Plains SA 5086
Campus	Centre for Dental Studies
Program length	2 Years
Registration division	Dental Hygienist
Registration specialty	N/A
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	NA – Paper based review
Date of ADC decision	12 August 2016
Type of accreditation	Major Change
Accreditation start date	1 January 2015
Accreditation end date	31 December 2019

SUMMARY REPORT

Background

TAFE SA's Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene) (ADOH(DH)) program was last reviewed by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in 2014 at which time it was accredited for a period of five (5) years, without conditions.

As a course in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector, TAFE SA's ADOH(DH) program is regulated by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) and is therefore also subject to accreditation against the *Standards for VET Accredited Courses 2012*. Accreditation of the ADOH(DH) program expired with ASQA on 31 December 2015 and was subsequently extended until 30 June 2016 so that mapping could occur to the revised Health Training Package units, which are incorporated within the ADOH(DH) program.

The expiry of the course's accreditation with ASQA has provided an opportunity for the curriculum to be reviewed and for changes to be made in accordance with recommendations from the 2014 ADC review and changes to other units of competency included within the program.

TAFE SA submitted the revised ADOH(DH) curriculum to the ADC in April 2016 to assess the impact of the proposed changes prior to the planned introduction of the revised curriculum in 2017. The ADC determined that the revised curriculum constituted a major change to an accredited program and determined that a limited review be undertaken against Standard 1 – Public Safety, Standard 3 – Program of Study and Standard 5 – Assessment.

Overview of the Evaluation

A paper based review was undertaken by a Site Evaluation Team (SET) of TAFE SA's 104 page submission of the major change to the ADOH(DH) program. Additional information was also requested following the SET's teleconference of 4 July 2016. A teleconference was also held on 26 July 2016 between the SET and staff members from TAFE SA including the Clinical Director, 1st Year Coordinator and another lecturer teaching into the program.

The findings in this report are based on the SET's assessment of the material outlined above, the 2015 annual report submitted for the program and the 2014 ADC Report of an evaluation of TAFE SA ADOH(DH) and Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics (ADDP) programs.

SUMMARY REPORT

Key Findings

The revised ADOH(DH) curriculum has been developed taking into consideration the quality improvement recommendations from the ADC's 2014 SET report. There are several new entry requirements, including that applicants must have previously undertaken first aid training and also hold a license to operate ionising radiation apparatus.

The revised curriculum aims to streamline the program delivery with the merging of several units of competency and deletion of others where the content is covered elsewhere. Overall there will be a slight increase in the time students will spend in clinic.

The revised curriculum will introduce several new units to make explicit the teaching of a range of competencies which are consistent with the *Professional Competencies of the Newly Qualified Dental Hygienist* as published by the ADC. The newly developed units will not increase the scope of practice of graduates as the content is already covered in the existing program, rather it is explicitly stating the knowledge and skills to be developed in areas such as in-office tooth whitening, the ability of dental hygienists to diagnose dental caries, design, conduct and evaluate an oral health plan and undertake critical analysis of research literature.

The revised program looks to provide exposure to a greater range of patients, with TAFE SA responding to recommendations made in the ADC's 2014 report by negotiating with the South Australian Dental Service (SADS) to treat children and adolescents through their clinics.

The information provided indicates that a variety of assessment strategies will be used throughout the program, including short answer question, quizzes, presentation of case studies and observations in the clinical setting. The variety of assessments to be used as indicated by the Matrix of Assessments provided are appropriate for the units and these have been mapped to the *Professional Competencies of the Newly Qualified Dental Hygienist* to ensure all competencies will be assessed.

ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that the major change to TAFE SA's Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene) program is accepted and that accreditation is continued until **31 December 2019**.