



**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL
ASSESSMENT OF A PROGRAM TO EXTEND SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

**TAFE SA
LOCAL ANAESTHESIA**

July 2016

SUMMARY REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program provider	TAFE SA
Program/qualification name	Local Anaesthesia
Program/qualification abbreviation	LA
Program/qualification code	OHDAPC601
Head office address, including State	33 Blacks Road, Gilles Plains SA 5086
Campus	Centre for Dental Studies, Gilles Plains Campus
Program length	30 Hours
Registration division	Dental Hygienist
Classification/Area of Practice	Local anaesthesia
Qualification type	VET
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	N/A
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
Date of site evaluation	N/A – Paper based review
Date of ADC decision	12 August 2016
Type of accreditation	Initial Accreditation
Accreditation start date	12 August 2016
Accreditation end date	31 December 2019

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Background

TAFE SA's Local Anaesthesia (LA) program is a short course equivalent to the unit 'Administer pain control for dental treatment' (National Code OHDAPC601) within the Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene) ADOH(DH)) program. The LA unit of competency is offered as stand alone program to extend the scope of practice for dental hygienists that have not previously undertaken training in the administration of local anaesthetics.

The course is currently approved by the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) as a program to extend scope, but has not previously been accredited by the Australian Dental Council (ADC).

The program aims to provide the skills and knowledge required to administer local anesthesia for the purpose of reducing pain and anxiety associated with dental treatment.

Overview of the Evaluation

The ADC appointed a Site Evaluation Team (SET) to undertake a paper based review of the program. The SET reviewed TAFE SA's 10 page submission and associated attachments against the Accreditation Standards. In completing its report, the SET also drew on information from the ADC's 2014 review of TAFE SA's Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics (ADDP) and ADOH(DH) programs and related submission.

Key Findings

TAFE SA's LA program is open to dental hygienists, registered with the DBA. The program aims to enable dental hygienists who were not trained in the administration of local anaesthesia to extend their scope of practice and apply non-pharmalogical pain control strategies as well as to administer local analgesia in accordance with State and Territory legislation and regulation.

The program is offered at TAFE SA's Centre for Dental Studies, Gillies Plains campus and requires students to complete prework, two and a half days of face to face training, as well as 10 infiltration and 10 inferior alveolar nerve blocks under supervision within the workplace. Students will use Nissin Local Anaesthesia simulators to develop their skills, which are currently also used within the accredited ADOH(DH) program.

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At the time of the ADC SET visit in 2014, it was determined that the facilities at TAFE SA's Gillies Plains clinic were excellent and that the relevant accreditation standards relating to physical facilities and clinic administration were met. The SET were advised that policies reviewed at the time of the 2014 visit relating to clinic administration have not changed.

The staffing profile delivering the LA course is appropriate and includes a dentist, dental therapists and dental hygienists. The SET was provided with the unit outline and copies of assessments to be completed, which are appropriate for the knowledge and skills taught.

Students are enrolled to complete the program and are governed by the same policies and procedures as any other student at TAFE SA. Prior to enrolment students are provided with information on selection and enrolment process, course content, fees and changes, and student support services. Upon enrolment students are also provided with an orientation session that covers rights and responsibilities, student support services, accessing learning materials, student code of behavior and complaints and appeals processes.

ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC determined that TAFE SA's Local anaesthesia program is accredited as a program to extend scope from **12 August 2016 to 31 December 2019**.