



Australian
Dental
Council

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

TAFE SA
PANORAMIC RADIOGRAPHY (OR ORTHOPANTOMOGRAMS OPG)

July 2016

SUMMARY REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program provider	TAFE SA
Program/qualification name	Panoramic Radiography (or orthopantomograms OPG)
Program/qualification abbreviation	OPG
Program/qualification code	
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, Dental Therapist, Oral Health Therapist
Classification/Area of Practice	Radiography
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 Panoramic Radiography (or orthopantomograms (OPG)) program is a short course based on the Certificate IV in Dental Assisting (Dental Radiography Skills Set). The OPG program is offered as stand alone program to extend the scope of practice for dental hygienists, dental therapists and oral health therapists that have not previously undertaken training in taking a panoramic image.

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 expose, assess and examine a panoramic image. The program does not cover panoramic radiodiagnosis.

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 Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene) (ADOH(DH)) programs and related submission.

Key Findings

TAFE SA's Panoramic Radiography program is delivered at TAFE SA's Centre for Dental Studies and is open to dentists, dental hygienists, dental therapists and dental assistants who hold a current Intra-Oral Radiography license. Students complete two days of face to face training and assessment and are required to submit a portfolio of 20 or more panoramic films taken under supervision in the workplace.

To complete the program, students must demonstrate an ability to:

- apply the principles of radiation biology and protection in dental practice;

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- prepare to expose a prescribed dental panoramic image; and
- produce a dental panoramic image.

The staff teaching the program are appropriately qualified and include dental practitioners as well as a medical radiation practitioner. 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 Panoramic radiography program is accredited as a program to extend scope from **12 August 2016** to **31 December 2019**.