

Accreditation Summary Report

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
Approved campus	Centre for Dental Studies, TAFE SA
Program length	2 years
Registration division	Dental Hygiene
Registration specialty	N/A
Qualification type [VET or HE]	VET
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	Level 6
Accreditation standards version	June 2010 Version 1.0 – Updated July 2013
Date of site evaluation	1-2 May 2014
Date of ADC decision	8 August 2014
Type of accreditation	Re-accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2015
Accreditation end date	31 December 2019

Background

The Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene) (ADOH(DH)) was last accredited by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in 2009 for a period of five years. Graduates are eligible to apply for registration with the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) as dental hygienists.

The program is also accredited within the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector and therefore needs to meet both the ADC and the Australian Skills Quality Authority's (ASQA's) accreditation requirements.

Summary of the ADC program evaluation

The Site Evaluation Team (SET) visited TAFE SA on 1 and 2 May 2014. The visit was combined to review the ADOH(DH) program and the Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics (ADDP) program simultaneously.

The SET was provided with a comprehensive written submission prior to the visit. The SET considered the submission and requested that additional information be provided

ahead of the visit. In addition the SET was provided with access to TAFE SA's e-Learning platform during the visit.

During the visit the SET interviewed a wide variety of stakeholders from the Centre for Dental Studies (CDS), including staff, students and previous graduates as well as industry representatives and a representative from the South Australian Dental Service.

The ADOH(DH) program was described by interviewees as a "flagship" program which "showcases" the organisation's educational standards.

The academic staff interviewed are dedicated and collaborative, with effective communication noted between staff and students. The SET noted an apparent smooth transition to the current program coordination, subsequent to the recent resignation of the previous program coordinator.

The dental facility in operation is a safe, modern and efficient environment for clinical education. The clinic is utilised to its maximum throughout the week, shared at various times by ADOH(DH) students, ADDP students, University of Adelaide Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) students, and TAFE Certificate III (dental assisting) students. The clinic is also used as a simulation clinic, as there is no other simulation laboratory space available.

Stakeholders interviewed by the SET expressed strong support for the program and considered its location within the TAFE sector to be important in providing educational pathways for students who would not otherwise be able to enter into a University program.

The Program is to be commended for their entrance criteria and selection process, which attracts suitable and enthusiastic students. The SET was pleased to note that TAFE SA and the University of Adelaide have agreed on an equitable articulation pathway for ADOH(DH) graduates into the University of Adelaide Bachelor of Oral Health (BOH) Program.

All stakeholders interviewed confirmed the continuing high regard held for the TAFE SA ADOH(DH) graduates, and that the education they receive more than adequately prepares them for professional practice.

ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that TAFE SA's Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene) program is re-accredited for a period of five (5) years from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2019.