



Australian
Dental
Council

**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF
TAFE QUEENSLAND BRISBANE
BACHELOR OF DENTAL PROSTHETICS
PROGRAM**

March 2017

SUMMARY REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program provider	TAFE Queensland Brisbane
Program/qualification name	Bachelor of Dental Prosthetics
Program/qualification abbreviation	BDP
Program/qualification code	HED004
Head office address, including State	66 Ernest St, South Brisbane QLD 4101
Campus	66 Ernest St, South Brisbane QLD 4101
Program length	3 years
Registration division	Dental Prosthetist
Registration specialty	NA
Qualification type	HE
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	Level 7
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
Date of site evaluation	9 March 2017
Date of ADC decision	5 May 2017
Type of accreditation	Monitoring - Conditions
Accreditation start date	15 May 2015
Accreditation end date	31 December 2018

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Background

In December 2013, TAFE Queensland Brisbane (TQB) (formerly Southbank Institute of TAFE (SBIT)) advised the Australian Dental Council (ADC) of its intent to offer a newly developed Bachelor of Dental Prosthetics (BDP) program from 2015. This was the first bachelor level prosthetics program to seek accreditation from the ADC and only the second prosthetics program in the higher education sector. The program is also required to be accredited by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) as TQB is not a self accrediting education provider. The program is TQB's first bachelor level program and does not offer any Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP).

Following a desktop review the program was accredited by the ADC until 31 December 2018 subject to the satisfactory completion of a monitoring visit to be undertaken no later than 30 June 2017. In particular it was determined that the monitoring visit would focus on the following accreditation standards (which were the standards in use at the time):

Accreditation Standard 6 – Staff and staff development – in particular that the program retains an appropriate staff profile to deliver the program and that staff workload remains manageable

Accreditation Standard 8 – The curriculum – in particular that appropriate material has been developed for the later years of the program

Accreditation Standard 12 – Student assessment and examination – in particular that assessment remains appropriate across all years of the program

Following the introduction of the new *ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs* at the start of 2016 the ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee updated the condition to align with the wording of the new accreditation standards. The updated condition required the monitoring visit to focus on the following accreditation standards:

Accreditation Standard 3 – Program of Study – in particular that the program retains an appropriate staff profile to deliver the program and that staff workload remains manageable and that appropriate material has been developed for the later years of the program

Accreditation Standard 5 – Assessment – in particular that assessment remains appropriate across all years of the program

This monitoring visit focused on the criteria under these two standards that were relevant to the rollout of the program.

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Overview of the Evaluation

The SET received the TQB's 19-page submission against the Accreditation Standards, various appendices and subsequent information requested from the TAFE following the SET teleconference of 17 January 2017. The SET visited TQB on 9 March 2017 and met with:

- The General Manager
- Dean of Higher Education
- Faculty Director
- Dental Team Manager
- The Course Convenor
- Academic and Clinical staff
- A group of first and second year students
- Other teaching staff and clinical tutors

The SET also toured the clinical and laboratory facilities at the TQB campus. As this was a monitoring visit the SET focused primarily on standards 3 and 5 to ensure that the program continues to meet those standards as it is rolled out. Standards 1, 2 and 4 were not assessed as part of this monitoring visit.

Key Findings

The program is currently in the second year of its implementation and at the time of the site visit the students had yet to reach the clinical practice stage of the program. While discussions with Queensland Health are ongoing it was unclear to the SET if all students would gain access to a suitable number and range of patients to develop the *Professional Competencies of the Newly Qualified Dental Prosthetist* at the point of graduation.

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There is strong support for the program from senior staff and the staff team developing the program are well qualified and displayed a strong sense of collegiality. Students interviewed were enthusiastic about their experience to date in the program.

The clinical and laboratory facilities on campus are good and support the current student numbers. If student numbers were to grow beyond the current cohort sizes it may place a strain on those facilities and the ability of TQB to deliver sufficient clinical experience for students.

Assessment in the program is appropriate, although final year assessment will be clinically based rather than a formal written examination.

ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that monitoring visit undertaken in March 2017 satisfies the condition of accreditation for TAFE Queensland Brisbane's Bachelor of Dental Prosthetics program and the program remains accredited until **31 December 2018**.

As a monitoring requirement, TAFE Queensland Brisbane is to provide a report to the ADC at the end of Semester 2, 2017 on the range and type of patients to which second year students have been exposed in Unit DDB206, Prosthetic Clinical Skills 1. The report is to be provided to the ADC by **30 November 2017**.