



**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY**

May 2016

SUMMARY REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program provider	University of Melbourne
Program/qualification name	Doctor of Dental Surgery
Program/qualification abbreviation	DDS
Program/qualification code	MC-DDENSUR
Head office address, including State	4th Floor, 720 Swanston Street, Carlton Vic 3053
Campuses	Melbourne Dental School
Program length	4 Years
Registration division	Dentist
Registration specialty	n/a
Qualification type	Masters Degree
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	9
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
Date of site evaluation	3 - 4 May 2016
Date of ADC decision	12 August 2016
Type of accreditation	Re-Accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2017
Accreditation end date	31 December 2023

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Background

The Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) program of the University of Melbourne commenced in January 2011. It is a professional postgraduate degree of 4 years duration. The first cohort of DDS students graduated in December 2014. The course was developed as fulfillment of the 'Melbourne Model', which offers professional programs of study at postgraduate level after completion of a 3-year generalist undergraduate degree.

The program was initially accredited by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in 2010 with conditions, including that a site visit be conducted in 2013 to assess the suitability of the program for ongoing accreditation. Following the 2013 site visit the program was accredited without conditions until 31 December 2016.

The course requires students to have prerequisite knowledge of anatomy, physiology and biochemistry, a completed undergraduate degree, as well as a Graduate Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT) or Dental Admission Test (DAT) test score. Students will systematically develop clinical skills during 2nd and 3rd year of the program using an evidence-based approach to learning to ensure close links between theory and practice. Final (4th) year is mainly learning through clinical experiences, preparing students for independent clinical practice upon graduation.

Overview of the Evaluation

The Site Evaluation Team (SET) received the University of Melbourne's 42-page submission against the Accreditation Standards, various appendices and subsequent information requested from the University following the SET teleconference of 15 March 2016. The SET undertook a site visit to the university on 3 and 4 May 2016. During the visit, meetings were held with:

- The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences
- The Head and Deputy Head of Melbourne Dental School (MDS)
- The Director, Teaching & Learning (who was also the DDS Program Co-ordinator) and Director, Clinical Education
- Year co-ordinators for the program
- School Administrative and support staff

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- Clinical supervisors and the coordinator Clinical Outplacements
- A group of community clinic staff
- The Director, Melbourne Dental Clinic (MDC) and the Coordinator DDS clinics at MDC
- A range of academic staff responsible for teaching into the program
- The MDS Teaching and Learning Committee
- The Director of the Melbourne POCHE Centre for Indigenous Health
- A representative of the Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch (ADAVB)
- Senior staff from the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne (RDHM)
- A representative group of students from all years of the program
- A group of recent graduates of the program

The SET also toured the facilities within the RDHM and the MDC and met with a range of clinical staff.

During the site visit the SET was provided with further documentation including sample theses, log books and examination papers.

The findings in this report are based on the SET's assessment of the material outlined above, interview evidence and a review of the facilities at the time of the site visit.

Key Findings

Students are provided with a good range of clinical training through the RDHM, MDC and a number of urban, rural and remote placement opportunities. This is sufficient to allow students to gain the necessary range of attributes and competencies upon graduation.

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The School has a strong academic staff group, but the 2014 University-wide Business Improvement Plan has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of professional staff directly available to support the program. This has placed an additional workload and strain on the academic staff. It is not clear how sustainable the current workload of academic staff will be going forward.

The School has a clear and robust academic governance structure and good relationships with external stakeholders who provide input into the program. This includes the RDHM, numerous community clinics and the ADAVB.

Students have access to an appropriate range of support from the School, academic staff and clinical supervisors, while an appropriate range of teaching and assessment techniques are employed throughout the program.

ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC determined that the University of Melbourne's Doctor of Dental Surgery program is accredited until **31 December 2023**.