



Australian  
Dental  
Council

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

**UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE  
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN DENTAL THERAPY (ADVANCED  
CLINICAL PRACTICE)**

**July 2016**

# SUMMARY REPORT

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Program provider</b>	University of Melbourne
<b>Program/qualification name</b>	Graduate Certificate in Dental Therapy (Advanced Clinical Practice)
<b>Program/qualification abbreviation</b>	GCertDenThrpy
<b>Program/qualification code</b>	GC-DTACP
<b>Head office address, including State</b>	Melbourne Dental School, 720 Swanston St, Carlton VIC 3053
<b>Campus</b>	Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne
<b>Program length</b>	6 Months
<b>Registration division</b>	Dental Therapist, Oral Health Therapist
<b>Classification/Area of Practice</b>	Adult Scope – Dental Therapy
<b>Qualification type</b>	HE
<b>Australian Qualifications Framework Level</b>	Level 8
<b>Accreditation standards version</b>	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
<b>Date of site evaluation</b>	N/A – Paper based review
<b>Date of ADC decision</b>	12 August 2016
<b>Type of accreditation</b>	Initial Accreditation
<b>Accreditation start date</b>	12 August 2016
<b>Accreditation end date</b>	31 December 2018

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## Background

The University of Melbourne's Graduate Certificate in Dental Therapy (Advanced Clinical Practice) (GCertDenThrpy) program is a six month program designed to enable Dental Therapists and Oral Health Therapists to extend their scope of practice and provide care to persons of all ages within the scope of dental therapy practice.

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 underwent an interim review process developed and implemented by the DBA in 2013, including a panel appointed to undertake a paper-based review of documentation and a site visit once the program had commenced. The program was subsequently approved by the DBA following this review process until 31 December 2018.

The program aims to provide the skills and knowledge required to qualify practicing dental therapists and oral health therapists to expand service provision to patients of all ages within the scope of dental therapy practice.

## Overview of the Evaluation

The ADC undertook a paperbased review of the information provided from the DBA regarding its assessment of the GCertDenThrpy program. The baseline assessment was undertaken by a Site Evaluation Team (SET) on 15 July 2016. The findings of the assessment are based on the information provided from the DBA regarding the approval assessment and information available from the Melbourne Dental School's (MDS's) website at the time of assessment.

## Key Findings

The University of Melbourne's GCertDenThrpy program is offered to dental therapists and oral health therapists currently registered with the DBA and with a minimum of two years of clinical experience. The GCertDenThrpy program is full time over one semester and incorporates intensive coursework and clinical training, which is undertaken at the Melbourne Dental School and Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV) clinics.

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Based on the evidence presented to the SET, the program prepares graduates to undertake simple direct tooth restoration in patients of all ages. The DBA report indicates that the curriculum covers each of the modalities to be taught and assessed when extending simple direct tooth restoration to adults.

The external examiners report provided indicates that the students performed at a high standard, were knowledgeable and were considered by the examiners to be safe to practice.

## ADC Accreditation Decision

It ADC determined that the University of Melbourne's Graduate Certificate in Dental Therapy (Advanced Clinical Practice) program is accredited from **12 August 2016** until **31 December 2018**.