



Australian
Dental
Council

AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF
UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
BACHELOR OF ORAL HEALTH

July 2014

SUMMARY REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program provider	University of Adelaide
Program/qualification name	Bachelor of Oral Health
Program/qualification abbreviation	BOH
Program/qualification code	314701
Head office address, including State	The University of Adelaide SA 5005
Approved campus	North Terrace Campus
Program length	3 years full time
Registration division	Dental Therapist , Dental Hygienist , Oral Health Therapist
Registration specialty	NA
Qualification type	HE
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	Level 7
Accreditation standards version	June 2010 Version 1.0
Date of site evaluation	30 - 31 July 2014
Date of ADC decision	31 October 2014
Type of accreditation	Re-accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2015
Accreditation end date	31 October 2018

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Background

The Bachelor of Oral Health (BOH) program at the University of Adelaide commenced in 2002 and was last visited by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in 2009, at which point the program was re-accredited for 5 years subject to one condition, which has since been met.

The BOH program is a three year, full time program and graduates are eligible to register with the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) as dental therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists.

The School has access to a range of teaching facilities including all common teaching areas at the University of Adelaide, the Medical School Buildings on the North Terrace Campus and the Adelaide Dental Hospital in Frome Street. The School also utilises South Australian Dental Services (SADS) Clinics at GP Plus centres at Marion, Elizabeth and Noarunga and a range of metropolitan School Dental Clinics

Annual reports were provided to the ADC in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. There have been no significant changes to the program since the last review and all recommendations from the previous accreditation report have been satisfactorily addressed.

Overview of the Evaluation

An ADC Site Evaluation Team (SET) conducted a site visit on 30 and 31 July 2014 to the University of Adelaide's School of Dentistry.

The SET reviewed the School's self-review against the Standards, attached appendices and additional information requested prior to the site visit.

During this visit the SET interviewed a range of individuals, including:

- The Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences
- The Interim Dean
- The Program Co-ordinator
- Year Coordinators
- Other academic and clinical staff that teach into or assist with the program
- Six students
- Recent graduates
- Providers of the students' clinical experience for the BOH
- Academic and administrative support staff
- A representative from the Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists Association (ADOHTA)

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- A representative from the Dental Hygienists Association of Australia (DHAA)
- Executive Director of the South Australian Dental Service
- General Manager of the Adelaide Dental Hospital
- Dean of Indigenous Education, Director of Aboriginal Education and the Director of Indigenous Health, School of Population Health

The SET visited the Learning Centre Hub, and the Dental Simulation Laboratory and Clinics at the Adelaide Dental Hospital and the Elizabeth GP Plus Clinic. Students were observed in the simulation laboratory and in clinic with patients.

During the visit the team was provided with further documentation which included clinical practice manuals, a site orientation checklist for students at the Elizabeth GP Plus Clinic, Student Self-Assessment books, pre-clinical manual, past summative assessment and written examination questions, a press release regarding the University's future commitment to building a new dental clinic and the University of Adelaide Integrated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategy.

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

The University of Adelaide School of Dentistry is to be commended for the quality of its BOH program. The enthusiastic staff utilise contemporary teaching and assessment practices as evidenced by the low attrition rate and recent teaching awards. The new simulation facilities provide excellent preclinical experiences for students and the research profile of the School is admirable.

Students would benefit from an increase in the clinical experience in the third year to increase confidence prior to graduation. The School is aware of the need to further develop interdisciplinary learning experiences to ensure students are ready to work in multidisciplinary settings upon graduation. The Program would also benefit from further external input to its ongoing review and development.

Currently all standards are met. However, student placements within SADS are only guaranteed until 2018 and the University of Adelaide has recently announced its commitment to building a new dental clinic to ensure facilities remain available for clinical practice into the future. The commitment made by the University of Adelaide to build a new dental clinic will need to be monitored by the ADC to ensure that the opportunities available for clinical placements enable students to develop the attributes and competencies expected of the newly graduated Oral Health Therapist.

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ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that the University of Adelaide's Bachelor of Oral Health program is re-accredited until 31 October 2018.