

**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL  
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF  
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE  
DENTAL SPECIALIST PROGRAMS IN  
ENDODONTICS  
ORAL MEDICINE  
ORTHODONTICS  
PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY  
PERIODONTICS  
PROSTHODONTICS  
SPECIAL NEEDS DENTISTRY**

**May 2015**

# SUMMARY REPORT

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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|--|---|
| <b>Program provider</b>  | University of Melbourne   |
| <b>Program/qualification names, Program/qualification abbreviation, Program/qualification code</b> | Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Endodontics, DClinDent, 661AA<br>Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Oral Medicine, DClinDent, 661AA<br>Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Orthodontics, DClinDent, 661AA<br>Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Paediatric Dentistry, DClinDent, 661AA<br>Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Periodontics, DClinDent, 661AA<br>Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Prosthodontics, DClinDent, 661AA<br>Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Special Needs Dentistry, DClinDent, 661AA |
| <b>Head office address, including State</b>  | The University of Melbourne, 720 Swanston Street Melbourne 3010   |
| <b>Campuses</b>  | 720 Swanston Street Carlton VIC 3053<br>Melbourne Dental Clinic, 723 Swanston St, Carlton VIC 3053  |
| <b>Program length</b>  | 3 years   |
| <b>Registration division</b>   | Specialist Dentist  |
| <b>Registration specialty</b>  | Endodontics, Oral Medicine, Orthodontics, Paediatric Dentistry, Periodontics, Prosthodontics, Special Needs Dentistry   |
| <b>Qualification type</b>  | HE  |
| <b>Australian Qualifications Framework Level</b>   | Level 9   |
| <b>Accreditation standards version</b>   | Version 1, June 2010  |
| <b>Date of site evaluation</b>   | 5 - 6 May 2015  |
| <b>Date of ADC decision</b>  | 14 August 2015  |
| <b>Type of accreditation</b>   | Re-accreditation  |
| <b>Accreditation start date</b>  | 1 January 2016  |
| <b>Accreditation end date</b>  | 31 December 2020  |

# SUMMARY REPORT

## Background

The University of Melbourne's Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (DCD) programs were last reviewed for the purposes of accreditation by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in 2010. The ADC determined that all programs, excluding the DCD in Oral Medicine, be accredited until 31 December 2015 subject to the requirements to submit annual reports demonstrating satisfactory progress with implementation of the recommendations and suggestions of the 2010 accreditation report.

The DCD in Oral Medicine was accredited until 31 December 2015 subject to conditions, including the submission of a student handbook, formal evaluation of the student and program outcomes and that a Peer Review to be undertaken during the second year of student enrolments in the program. At the time of the visit, the conditions had not been deemed to have been met. However, a peer review conducted by the Oral Medicine Academy of Australasia in October 2013 was made available to the SET prior to the visit. Annual reports have also been provided in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 for the DCD programs, which were accepted as satisfactory by the ADC to maintain accreditation.

Depending on the discipline undertaken, the DCD programs enable graduates to apply to the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) to register as specialist dentists in:

- Endodontics
- Oral Medicine
- Orthodontics
- Paediatric Dentistry
- Periodontics
- Prosthodontics
- Special Needs Dentistry

## Overview of the Evaluation

An ADC Site Evaluation Team (SET) conducted a site visit on 5 and 6 May 2015 to the Melbourne Dental School (MDS) based at the Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne (RDHM). During both days of the visit the SET inspected clinical and learning and teaching facilities at the RDHM, a facility operated by Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV), as well as the facilities available at the Melbourne Dental Clinic (MDC), which is owned and operated by the MDS.

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The site visit on 5 May 2015 included specialists reviewing the DCD programs in Oral Medicine, Orthodontics, Paediatric Dentistry and Prosthodontics, while on the 6 May 2015 specialists reviewing the DCD programs in Endodontics, Periodontics and Special Needs Dentistry.

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

During the site visit the SET interviewed a range of stakeholders including:

- The Deputy Head of School
- The Course co-ordinator for each specialist program
- Other academic staff with overall responsibility for the program
- Other teaching staff for each program – excluding endodontics as staff were not available for interview
- The School Manager, Finance Officer and Graduate Research Officer
- Students from all years of each program, as well as recent graduates

During the site visit the SET was provided with further documentation including sample theses 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

The Melbourne Dental School continues to offer DCD programs that attract a strong cohort of engaged students. Teaching facilities for all programs are appropriate and students gain exposure to both public and private sector patients through the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne and the Melbourne Dental Clinic respectively. Research output across the programs is strong.

Each program is led by an experienced and well qualified course co-ordinator, although a lack of formal succession planning increases the risk of disruption to the programs in the event of a course co-ordinator leaving.

The university-wide 'Business Improvement Program' has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of support staff within the MDS, with academic staff being required currently to backfill a range of administrative duties. The commitment of the academic staff to ensure that this does not impact on the students is commendable.

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A number of Standards were identified by the SET as being 'Substantially met'. While none of the shortfalls were considered significant enough to impact on the overall recommendation to re-accredit the programs these areas will need to be addressed through a number of conditions. A number of further recommendations have been made by the SET where areas were identified for potential improvement.

## ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that the following University of Melbourne programs are re-accredited for a period of five (5) years until **31 December 2020**:

- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Endodontics
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Oral Medicine
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Orthodontics
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Paediatric Dentistry
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Periodontics
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Prosthodontics
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Special Needs Dentistry

Subject to the following conditions:

### For the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Orthodontics

In order to meet fully Standard 9 – Specialist Staff – the MDS confirm the appointment of an additional 1.0 FTE staff member (Appointment approved previously in August 2015). The appointment to be confirmed to ADC by **31 December 2015**.

### For the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Periodontics

In order to meet fully Standard 13 – Scholarship and Expertise – the MDS should review urgently how students can gain access to a sufficient number of patients where they have the opportunity to place implants. A report on how this will be achieved to be provided to the ADC by **31 October 2015**.

### For the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Paediatric Dentistry

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In order to meet fully Standard 16 – Student Wellbeing – the MDS must review procedures for students undertaking placements at the Royal Children’s Hospital to ensure that students do not work alone when seeing patients after hours. A report on the changes implemented to be provided to the ADC by **31 October 2015**.