

Accreditation Summary Report

Program provider	University of Melbourne
Program/qualification name	Bachelor of Oral Health
Program/qualification abbreviation	BOH
Program/qualification code	841AC
Head office address, including State	Melbourne, Victoria
Approved campus(es)	Melbourne
Program length	3 years
Registration division	Dental hygienist Dental therapist Oral health therapist
Registration specialty	Not applicable
Qualification type	Higher education – Undergraduate
Program type & AQF level	Level 7 – Bachelor degree
Accreditation standards version	June 2010, version 1.0
Date of site evaluation	23-24 July 2013
Date of ADC decision	21 November 2013
Type of notification	Re-accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2014
Accreditation end date	31 December 2018

Background

The Melbourne Dental School's (MDS) Bachelor of Oral Health (BOH) commenced in 2005. The ADC last visited the program in 2007 and the program was granted full accreditation from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2013.

Graduates are eligible to apply for registration with the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) as oral health therapists, dental hygienists and dental therapists. Graduates provide care for patients of all ages, with dental therapy restorative care limited to those people aged under 26 years old.

Clinical training is provided through the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne (RDHM), operated by Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV), and at a number of rural and regional dental clinics.

Summary of ADC program evaluation

The Site Evaluation Team (SET) visited MDS on 23 and 24 July 2013.

The SET were provided with a comprehensive written submission prior to the visit and further documentation was sought and supplied during the visit.

The program is delivered in a student-centred approach and uses contemporary educational learning and teaching methodologies. The students are given significant clinical exposure in a variety of settings that prepares them for practice as oral health therapists.

The new facilities are impressive and provide opportunities for the students to be exposed to a new range of patients and simulation experiences which will enhance their experience.

The program is well supported by administrative staff. The number of full time academic staff employed to teach into the BOH, however, may need to be reviewed and increased as current workloads appear extensive for staff undertaking teaching and coordinating roles. Nevertheless, the BOH staff and demonstrators showed commitment and passion for the program and this translated into a positive experience for the students.

The BOH program has a strong underpinning public health and evidence-based philosophy.

The Shepparton clinical placement provides a unique opportunity for a team-based dental setting and facilitates an integrated learning environment.

The ADC suggests the school review the number of contact hours across all three years of the program to ensure that students are provided with a well-rounded education.

Furthermore, the ADC suggests that where possible opportunities for integrated teaching and learning between the BOH and Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) programs should be developed as this would benefit students.

ADC's accreditation decision

The ADC has reaccredited the University of Melbourne's Bachelor of Oral Health program without conditions until 31 December 2018.