



Australian  
Dental  
Council

**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL  
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF  
UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE  
BACHELOR OF ORAL HEALTH THERAPY**

**September 2014**

# SUMMARY REPORT

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Program provider</b>	University of Newcastle
<b>Program/qualification name</b>	Bachelor of Oral Health Therapy
<b>Program/qualification abbreviation</b>	BOHT
<b>Program/qualification code</b>	480764
<b>Head office address, including State</b>	Central Coast (Ourimbah), Chittaway Road, Ourimbah NSW
<b>Approved campus</b>	Central Coast Campus at Ourimbah
<b>Program length</b>	3 years full time
<b>Registration division</b>	Dental Therapist, Dental Hygienist, Oral Health Therapist
<b>Registration specialty</b>	NA
<b>Qualification type</b>	HE
<b>Australian Qualifications Framework Level</b>	Level 7
<b>Accreditation standards version</b>	June 2010, Version 1.0
<b>Date of site evaluation</b>	N/A
<b>Date of ADC decision</b>	31 October 2014
<b>Type of accreditation</b>	Initial Accreditation
<b>Accreditation start date</b>	1 January 2015
<b>Accreditation end date</b>	31 December 2017

# SUMMARY REPORT

## Background

In January 2013 the University of Newcastle advised the Australian Dental Council (ADC) that it was commencing work on a major revision of its Bachelor of Oral Health (BOH) program. The University advised that the revision was in response to both internal and external stakeholder feedback and was aimed at incorporating the competencies attained in the Graduate Diploma in Dental Therapy (GradDipDT) program within the existing BOH program.

The ADC reviewed the University of Newcastle's February 2014 submission regarding the proposed major change. Based on the information received, the ADC determined that the proposed Bachelor of Oral Health Therapy (BOHT) program was a new program and would need to be accredited separately. Students currently enrolled in the BOH and GradDipDT programs will complete these programs as currently taught, with no further intake for either program from 2015 onwards.

The proposed BOHT program is a three year course that will enable graduates to register as dental therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists. The program also aims to equip graduates with the knowledge and skills required to practice dental therapy on persons of all ages.

## Overview of the Evaluation

The ADC last visited the University of Newcastle in June 2012 to assess the BOH and GradDipDT for reaccreditation. During this visit the ADC reviewed the facilities, met with key staff and also observed students in clinic with patients and determined that the facilities were adequate.

The ADC will also undertake a site visit to the University of Newcastle's Ourimbah campus as a condition of accreditation for the BOH and GradDipDT programs in October 2014. This will provide an opportunity to review the new simulation clinic currently under construction. As there is a significant overlap between the programs the ADC determined that a paper based review of the BOHT program would be appropriate.

The Site Evaluation Team (SET) reviewed The University of Newcastle's self-review against the Standards, attached appendices and additional information requested.

The SET interviewed a range of stakeholders via teleconference, including:

- The Head of School;
- Program Convenor;
- Academic staff and
- The Clinic Manager.

An additional teleconference was held on 19 September 2014 with the Program Convenor to request additional information specifically related to the adult scope of practice in dental therapy.

The findings in this report are based on the SET's assessment of the material outlined above and interview.

# SUMMARY REPORT

## Key Findings

The evidence presented indicates that the range of clinical learning environments available will enhance the learning experiences of students, for which the University of Newcastle is to be commended. The curriculum is vertically and horizontally integrated and the staffing profile includes a range of highly qualified dental educators and specialists, which the SET consider appropriate for teaching the program. The assessment policies and processes appear robust, but the program could benefit from combining some assessments to reflect the horizontally integrated nature of the curriculum.

Particular attention was paid to ensuring that the minimum modalities as identified by the DBA for dental therapists and oral health therapists to practice dental therapy on persons of all ages were met. The evidence presented indicates that the BOHT program is capable of equipping graduates with the required knowledge to safely practice oral health therapy, including adult scope of dental therapy on persons of all ages.

The University of Newcastle will need to demonstrate that the proposed intake can be accommodated through the available chairs at the Oral Health Centre. Furthermore the University will need to provide evidence that all students will receive adequate clinical time as operators to develop the skills required for solo practice on graduation.

## ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that the University of Newcastle Bachelor of Oral Health Therapy program is accredited for a period of three (3) years from **1 January 2015** to **31 December 2017** subject to the following conditions:

That in order for the ADC to determine if Standard 5 – Physical facilities and resources and Standard 11 – Preparation for practice have been met:

- 1) That by **1 December 2014** the University of Newcastle provides:
  - a) an explanation of how it has determined what constitutes an acceptable number of clinical hours per student as the clinical operator to allow students to develop the required competencies to safely practice all modalities of the Oral Health Therapist (including adult scope in dental therapy).
  - b) a detailed timetable for each year of the program demonstrating how every student in both the Bachelor of Oral Health Therapy and the Bachelor of Oral Health will be accommodated in the available pre-clinical and clinical facilities, including the number of clinical hours each will spend working as a clinical operator.
- 2) That by **16 January 2015** the University of Newcastle report to the ADC on the total number of BOHT 1<sup>st</sup> Year intake and demonstrate their fit with the available clinical and preclinical resources.