

CAROLYN HENDERSON Submission to ADC Draft Accreditation Standards Consultation

Respondent details	
Name:	CAROLYN HENDERSON
Organisation:	UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
Role/capacity:	STUDENT SUPERVISOR; FORMERLY SPECIALIST ENDODONTIST CLINICAL SUPERVISOR, ORAL HEALTH ALLIANCE
Location:	Metro
Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?	No
Response to consultation questions	
Do you consider that the draft Standards are at the threshold level to deliver competent graduates who are safe to practise?	No
(Yes, Somewhat, No, Unsure)	
Additional comments:	Public Safety Concerns: Having examined 5th year students for many years, including 2025, it is obvious that Education and Assessment standards have dropped significantly. It was obvious that many students had not studied, unless they were going to sit the Canadian Board exams. In 5th year UQ, there are no lectures and minimal examination. The final examination is only a 20-minute viva. While many had the bare minimum knowledge to just pass, there was a concerning number who failed. The lack of knowledge was across all fields, indicating a generalised disinterest in learning. Despite this, most were sufficiently self-confident to feel that they were competent, which is an extremely dangerous combination.

	Many students believe they have “purchased a degree” instead of “purchasing the opportunity to learn”. They exhibit a laziness in learning, made worse by the lack of examination and accountability. Those who sat the Canadian Board exams, succeeded at a far higher level, making it obvious that a Board Exam provides the impetus to actually learn and become knowledgeable, competent and professional graduates who are safe to practice. While working with and examining the students, it is apparent that there becomes a student divide in engagement in learning as it becomes evident where they wish to practice.
Do you agree with the specific proposals as incorporated in the draft Standards? (Yes, Somewhat, No, Unsure)	Yes
Additional comments:	
Are there any additional Standards or Criteria that should be added? (Yes, No, Unsure)	Yes
Additional comments:	
	All Canadian students, regardless of whether they have studied domestically or internationally, must sit and pass the Canadian Dental Board Examination before being eligible to practice in Canada. Singapore graduates must be supervised by two registered practitioners for a minimum of two years in order to practice in Singapore, regardless of whether they are new graduates or return to Singapore after working in Australia for a period of time. It has been suggested that the Singapore Dental Board will be bringing in Board Registration Examinations in 2028. Therefore: a. Having an Australian and New Zealand Dental Board Examination would provide: 1) students with the impetus to learn and become knowledgeable, competent and professional graduates who are safe to practice on graduation.

	2) a standardised assessment outside the university setting to improve patient safety. 3) feedback to the Universities regarding the quality and effectiveness of their education programmes. 4) Being examined by an independent body would remove the students' perception that they have "purchased a degree" instead of "purchasing the opportunity to learn". Introduction of a Board Examination is the most important step, followed by: b. Introduce a Pre-Registration period, followed by Board Examinations, during which new graduates must be supervised by a registered dentist, (as is required by the Pharmacy Board of Australia). It is obvious that if new graduates are not confident in their ability to pass the Canadian Board Exams or being able to satisfy Singapore's stringent Clinical Practice Requirements, they opt to remain in Australia, working without supervision, potentially jeopardising the Australian general public. I am unsure of the situation in New Zealand.
Are there any Standards or Criteria that should be deleted or reworded? (Yes, No, Unsure)	Unsure
Additional comments related to your response, and clearly reference the specific criteria you are referring to for refinement.	
Do you have any other questions or comments on the Standards?	Patient safety is becoming more of a serious risk. 1. Please give serious consideration to the introduction of an Australian and New Zealand Dental Board Registration Examination for all graduates of the Australian and New Zealand Dental Schools to ascertain if they are competent to commence dental practice; and / or 2. A Pre-Registration Supervision period, followed by Board Examinations (as is required by the Pharmacy Board of Australia) would also assist ensuring patient safety.