

Narayan Gandedkar Submission to ADC Draft Accreditation Standards Consultation

Respondent details

Name: Narayan Gandedkar

Organisation: The University of Sydney

Role/capacity: Senior Lecturer (Orthodontics)

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? Somewhat

(Yes, Somewhat, No, Unsure)

Additional comments:

Do you agree with the specific proposals as incorporated in the draft Standards? Yes

(Yes, Somewhat, No, Unsure)

Additional comments:

Are there any additional Standards or Criteria that should be added? No

(Yes, No, Unsure)

Additional comments:

Are there any Standards or Criteria that should be deleted or reworded? No

(Yes, No, 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?

Workforce challenges in dental education are real and multifactorial, but registration barriers remain a significant and remediable concern. For experienced academic, like myself, with over 18 years of global teaching and 7 years of Australian academic service, continued limited registration does not reflect my contribution or competence. Full registration provides professional stability, autonomy in supervision, and the ability to contribute fully to clinical teaching and curriculum leadership. My suggestion - Academics with a benchmark of at least 5 years of Australian teaching experience should be automatically transitioned from limited to full registration. This would recognise demonstrated competence within the Australian regulatory and clinical context. Such a pathway would reduce unnecessary administrative burden and improve staff retention. It would also strengthen succession planning and senior academic leadership. Automatic conversion (after 5-years in Australia) would enhance morale and reinforce the value of long term academic commitment. Most importantly, it would support program sustainability and compliance with Criterion 3.10 by ensuring suitably qualified educators are retained. Addressing registration progression is therefore essential for the long term stability of Australian dental education.