



AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL

REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY

BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY

June 2015

SUMMARY REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program provider	James Cook University
Program/qualification name	Bachelor of Dental Surgery
Program/qualification abbreviation	BDS
Program/qualification code	73010
Head office address, including State	James Cook University, McGregor Road, Smithfield, Cairns, Qld 4870
Campus	Cairns
Program length	5 Years
Registration division	Dentist
Registration specialty	N/A
Qualification type	Bachelor Degree
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	7
Accreditation standards version	June 2010 Version 1.0
Date of site evaluation	3-4 June 2015
Date of ADC decision	14 August 2015
Type of accreditation	Re-Accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2016
Accreditation end date	31 December 2022

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Background

The Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) at James Cook University (JCU) commenced in 2009 and was accredited by the ADC subject to several conditions to be satisfied regarding staffing, curriculum and facilities as the program rolled out, and a monitoring visit in 2010 to be undertaken prior to the commencement of student clinical experience.

Subsequent to the report of the 2010 monitoring visit, accreditation of the program was extended until 31 December 2015 subject to a condition to report on the further rollout of the program and a monitoring visit to be conducted in 2012 to review the Year 5 clinical facilities.

A further monitoring visit was undertaken in 2013 to review Year 5 student clinical placements and covered four outplacement sites across Queensland and the Northern Territory.

Overview of the Evaluation

The SET undertook a site visit to the JCU campus in Cairns on 3 and 4 June 2015. During the visit, meetings were held with:

- The Dean, College of Medicine & Dentistry,
- The current Head and former Head of Dentistry
- Year 1-5 Co-ordinators
- A range of key support staff
- The Director of Clinical Dentistry
- A range of academics teaching on the program
- Students from years 1-5 of the program
- Graduates of the program
- Representatives of the Teaching and Learning Committee
- The Director of Oral Health for Cairns and Hinterland Health and Hospital Service
- Representatives from the ADA

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During the site visit the SET also visited the clinical facilities at the Cairns Campus where they witnessed students from the program working with patients, simulation clinic, teaching spaces and research laboratories on campus and the dental clinic at Mareeba.

Prior to, and during, the site visit the SET reviewed a range of documentation including curriculum information and course outlines, student log books, examination papers, student portfolios and staff CVs.

Key Findings

The program has developed well since its inception in 2008 and has now produced its first two cohorts of graduates. There is a strong commitment from senior university staff to support the program going forward as the recently appointed Head of School settles into his role. This is reassuring given the current deficit budget for the School.

The quality of clinical facilities at the Cairns campus is world class, with the School also providing instruments and equipment needed by students free of charge. Aside from clinical experience gained on campus, students are offered two outplacement opportunities across Queensland, Tasmania or the Northern Territory, mostly in remote and rural locations, which provides students with exposure to a wide variety of patient types. Considerable effort is made to ensure that students have similar experiences in their final year. International outplacement opportunities are also provided to the Year 5 students. Many of the recent graduates are reported to have taken up roles in rural and remote communities, in line with the philosophy of the program.

The communication between School academic staff and clinical supervisors at JCU Dental requires improvement in order to ensure that didactic and clinical teaching are in alignment and that there is an appropriate level of clinical experience and supervision for students. The SET was concerned that the academic staff cohort does not have sufficient qualifications and experience to cover all the required disciplines of dentistry and provide adequate supervision to students during their clinical practice. Both of these issues are the subject of a condition to be satisfied by the university. The SET also identified a number of areas where there is an opportunity to enhance the quality of the program and these are set out as quality improvement Recommendations for consideration by the School. Many of the opportunities for improvement had already been identified by the Head of School.

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ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that James Cook University's Bachelor of Dental Surgery program is re-accredited until **31 December 2022** subject to the following conditions:

1. In order to comply fully with Standard 4 - School administration and budget - the University must report to the ADC how it will ensure the financial sustainability of the Bachelor of Dental Surgery program during the recommended accreditation period. This report to be provided to the ADC by **31 December 2015**.
2. In order to comply fully with Standard 6 – Staff and Staff Development and Standard 8 – The Curriculum – the University must provide a satisfactory report to the ADC detailing what measures it has, or will, put in place to ensure that the staff cohort has sufficient qualifications and experience to cover all the required disciplines of dentistry and provide adequate supervision to students during their clinical practice. The report to be provided to the ADC by **31 December 2015**.
3. In order to comply fully with Standard 8 – The Curriculum – the University must provide a satisfactory report to the ADC detailing:
 - a. actions that it has, or will, take to achieve better co-ordination between academic teaching staff and clinical supervisors at JCU Dental; and
 - b. how it will measure the success of those actions in improving the alignment between didactic and clinical teaching

This report to be provided to the ADC by **31 December 2015**.