



Australian Dental Council of an evaluation of La Trobe University's Bachelor of Oral Health Science program

May 2018

Summary report

Program provider	La Trobe University
Program/qualification name	Bachelor of Oral Health Science
Program/qualification abbreviation	BOHSc
Program/qualification code	HBOHSB (BE)
Head office address, including State	La Trobe University, Bundoora, VIC, 3086 AUSTRALIA
Campus	La Trobe Rural Health School, Bendigo
Program length	2.5 years (six semesters)
Registration division	Dental Hygienist, Dental Therapist, Oral Health Therapist
Registration specialty	NA
Qualification type	Bachelor Degree
Australian Qualifications Framework level	7
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
Date of site evaluation	2 - 3 May 2018
Date of ADC decision	10 August 2018
Type of accreditation	Re-Accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2019
Accreditation end date	31 December 2023

Background

La Trobe University's Bachelor of Oral Health Science (BOHSc) program commenced in 2005 and was last reviewed by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) for the purpose of accreditation in 2013. At this time, the BOHSc program was accredited for a period of five years without conditions.

The program is completed over six semesters, including a summer semester to enable students to complete the program within two and half years.

A student that completes the program is eligible to apply for registration with the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) as a dental hygienist, dental therapist or an oral health therapist. The BOHSc program aims to provide students with the skills and knowledge required to practice dental therapy on persons of all ages.

Overview of evaluation

An ADC Site Evaluation Team (SET) conducted a site visit on 2 and 3 May 2018 to La Trobe University's Bendigo Campus. The SET reviewed the Department of Dentistry and Oral Health's 63 page self-review against the Standards, attached appendices and additional information requested following the SET's teleconference of 14 March 2018.

During the visit the SET interviewed a range of individuals, including:

- Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Science, Health and Engineering
- Head of Department Dentistry and Oral Health
- School Manager La Trobe Rural Health School
- Administrative and support staff
- BOHSc Course Coordinator
- Clinical and year level coordinators
- Academic staff
- Clinical educators
- Currents students from all years of the program
- Head of Oral Health and Coordinator Oral Health, Barwon Health
- Regional Clinic Coordinator, Bendigo Health

- Senior Dentist, Bendigo Health
- Organisational Development Project Worker, Bendigo Community Health
- La Trobe University staff responsible for developing and maintain the digital portfolio (Pebble Pad)
- Manager, Career Development Centre
- Representatives of the Course Advisory Committee (CAC)
- Recent graduates
- Representatives of professional associations, including Dental Hygienists Association of Australia (DHAA) and the Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists' Association (ADOHTA)
- Representatives from TAFE SA and Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV) that provide external input into the program.

The SET toured the facilities at the La Trobe Rural Health School and observed BOHSc students in clinic at Bendigo Health Care Group's Anne Caudle Centre.

During the visit the SET was provided with additional information including a demonstration of the Pebble Pad system, copies of course outlines for the entire program and examples of end of semester and end of year student assessments.

Key findings

The evidence gathered by the SET indicates that overall the Bachelor of Oral Health Science program is preparing students well for practice. The assessment processes are robust, and mechanisms are in place to identify students that require support or extra opportunities to demonstrate competencies.

Students have ready access to support services and are provided with regular feedback on their clinical performance within the PebblePad system. Evidence gathered by the SET indicates that the mechanisms in place to incorporate external input and student feedback into the design and management of the program are working well.

There are opportunities for the Department of Dentistry and Oral Health to further strengthen the program by providing greater exposure in intra- and interprofessional practice as well developing students' understanding of the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in relation to oral health care provision.

ADC accreditation decision

The ADC has determined that La Trobe University's Bachelor of Oral Health Science program is accredited without conditions until **31 December 2023**.