

Australian Dental Council report of an evaluation of TAFE NSW Sydney Institute's Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics program

March 2018

Summary report

Program provider	TAFE NSW Sydney Institute
Program/qualification name	Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics
Program/qualification abbreviation	Adv Dip Dent Pros
Program/qualification code	HLT65015
Head office address, including State	
Campus	Randwick College
Program length	2.3 Years
Registration division	Dental Prosthetist
Registration specialty	NA
Qualification type	Advanced Diploma
Australian Qualifications Framework level	6
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
Date of site evaluation	20 - 21 March 2018
Date of ADC decision	11 May 2018
Type of accreditation	Re-Accreditation
Accreditation start date	9 August 2018
Accreditation end date	31 December 2023

Background

TAFE NSW Sydney Institute's Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics (ADDP) program was first accredited by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in 2013. Graduates from the program are able to apply to register as dental prosthetists.

As a course in the Vocational and Educational Training (VET) sector, the ADDP program is regulated by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) and education providers offering the program must comply with the Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015. The qualification on which the ADDP program was accredited in 2013, HLT60412, was superseded by the new qualification HLT65015 and all providers offering the new ADDP program transitioned to the new training package in 2016.

In 2016 the ADC determined that the introduction of the new training package was a major change to an accredited program and a paper based review of the program was undertaken. Accreditation of the ADDP program was continued, subject to conditions which have all subsequently been met.

Overview of evaluation

The Site Evaluation Team (SET) received the TAFE NSW Sydney Institute's 24 page submission against the Accreditation Standards with various appendices. Following the SET teleconference held on 7 February 2018, subsequent information was requested and received from the TAFE.

The SET undertook a site visit to the Sydney Dental Hospital (SDH) on 20 and 21 March 2018. During the visit, meetings were held with:

- Faculty Director, Community Services and Health
- Head Teacher and relieving Head Teacher
- A representative for the Sydney Local Health District
- Permanent teaching staff
- Clinical supervisors
- Casual teaching staff
- Students
- A dental prosthetist providing external input into the program.

During the site visit the SET was provided with further documentation including examples of student research assignments, assessment materials and student portfolios.

The SET also toured the facilities at the SDH and observed students in the clinic.

The findings in this report are based on the SET's assessment of the material outlined above, interview evidence and a review of the facilities at the time of the site visit.

Key findings

Overall, the evidence gathered by the SET indicates that TAFE NSW Sydney Institute's ADDP program is achieving its goals and producing graduates that are ready for practise. The program provides students with the variety and number of cases required to develop the professional competencies required of a newly qualified dental prosthetist. Students are well supported in the clinical environment, with dedicated teaching staff providing appropriate oversight. There are opportunities to further contextualise teaching in areas such as research literacy, which would further enhance the program.

Evidence gathered by the SET indicates that feedback provided by students and external stakeholders is actioned, however the feedback is not always formalised in a manner that makes continuous improvement processes clear. There are also opportunities for a more formalised approach to assessment moderation throughout the program, however the evidence indicates that these process although informal, are working.

There is however an issue with the screening process for students that the TAFE must address. The TAFE must ensure that students are compliant with the requirements of the Dental Board of Australia's *Guidelines on infection control* and implement a process of screening for blood borne viruses, as well as provide advice on these requirements to potential students.

The TAFE is also working through a process of restructure as ten separate TAFEs are brought under one banner. There are changes to the management structure and administration that is not likely to impact on the program at this point in time, but further updates will be required.

ADC accreditation decision

The ADC has determined that TAFE NSW Sydney Institute's Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics (ADDP) program is accredited for a period of five years until **31 December 2023** subject to the following condition:

- to ensure Standard 1 – Public safety is met, the TAFE must put in place a process to ensure students have undertaken screening for blood borne viruses prior to entering the clinical environment. A report detailing the process put in place and including the advice provided to current students must be provided to the ADC by **15 June 2018**.

As a monitoring requirement, TAFE NSW Sydney Institute is to include an update as part of its 2018 annual report on the implementation of the restructure of the TAFE. The update should include details of the ADDP program's governance arrangements and any impact the change has had on program delivery.