



Public Health Association
AUSTRALIA

Accreditation Standards Review
Australian Dental Council
accreditation@adc.org.au

20 April 2020

Dear Review Secretariat,

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) is recognised as the principal non-government organisation for public health in Australia working to promote the health and well-being of all Australians. It is the pre-eminent voice for the public's health in Australia, and seeks to drive better health outcomes through increased knowledge, better access and equity, evidence informed policy and effective population-based practice in public health.

PHAA welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the proposed changes to the ADC accreditation standards for dental practitioner programs, as outlined in the revised draft for consultation – February 2020.

The proposed changes are supported by PHAA. In particular, we note the significantly increased importance given to training in cultural safety in the provision of oral health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with the inclusion of a separate dedicated sixth domain in the Standards (6b) focusing on this area.

Our response is limited to specific questions:

Question 3. Do you agree with the following specific proposals as incorporated in the draft Standards? (Yes, No, Partly, Do Not Know):

PARTLY.

b) In Australia: A dedicated domain in the Standards on cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and its criteria (Domain 6b in the draft Standards):

Yes, PHAA supports this dedicated domain.

d) An additional criterion requiring programs to ensure students understand the legal, ethical and professional responsibilities of a registered dental practitioner (criterion 1.8 in the draft Standards):

Yes. PHAA proposes that this criterion be expanded to specifically refer to interprofessional training with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners and Workers.

Question 5. Are there any Standards that should be deleted or reworded? (Yes, No, Partly, Do Not Know):

Yes. Criterion 6b should be worded to reflect similar principles in Australia as in New Zealand – where culturally appropriate. Specific wording is suggested below.

6b. The program ensures students are able to provide culturally safe care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

6.1 The program recognises the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

6.2 The program discussed the current demography, health status and oral health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

6.3 The program, staff and students understand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples perspectives of health and wellbeing, their beliefs and cultural practices as it pertains to oral health in particular.

6.4 The cultural understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples is integrated throughout the program, clearly articulated in required learning outcomes (including competencies that will enable effective and respectful interaction with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples).

6.5 Clinical experiences provide students with experiences of providing culturally safe care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and clinical application of cultural competence is appropriately assessed.

6.6 There is a partnership in the design and management of the program from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

6.7 The program provider promotes and support the recruitment, admission, participation, retention and completion of the program by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

6.8 The program provider ensures students are provided with access to appropriate resources, and to staff with specialist knowledge, expertise and cultural capabilities, to facilitate learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

6.9 the program recognises the important role of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in supporting the delivery of culturally safe oral health care.

6.10 Staff and students work and learn in a culturally appropriate environment.

The PHAA appreciates the opportunity to make this submission and the opportunity to contribute to improved accreditation standards for dental practitioner programs.

We acknowledge and thank Dr David Walker for his contribution to this submission.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information or have any queries in relation to this submission.

Yours Sincerely,



Terry Slevin
Chief Executive Officer
Public Health Association of Australia



Tan Nguyen
PHAA Convenor
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