

Meeting of the Australian Dental Council Board of Directors September 2018

The September 2018 meeting of the Australian Dental Council (ADC) Board of Directors was held from 13 to 14 September in Melbourne, Victoria.

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from this meeting, along with other important information.

2018-2020 Strategic Plan

In 2018, the ADC released its 2018-2020 Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan), which outlines how the organisation will work towards achieving its vision to become a leader in accreditation and assessment in the oral health sector, nationally and internationally.

The Strategic Plan includes the strategic aims for the organisation. These outline the organisational focus for the next two years and give direction to the organisation's vision. Underpinning the vision and strategic aims are the organisation's values. These define how the organisation behaves and interacts with its internal and external stakeholders.

In support of the Strategic Plan, the Board approved the ADC Communication Strategy and Research Strategy. The Board also endorsed the development of papers exploring how best to include consumer and community representation in its activities.

Future meetings of the ADC Board will feature updates on the work performed in delivery of the vision, strategic aims, and values outlined under the Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan can be viewed [here](#).

Risk management workshop

As part of the Strategic Plan, the Board is committed to exercising effective governance. A key part of this is the continued mitigation of organisational risk.

To ensure the Board continues to exercise its role in line with international best practice, the Board participated in a risk management workshop during the September meeting. Completed under the recommendation of the Finance Audit and Risk Management (FARM) Committee and conducted by the Governance Institute of Australia, the workshop gave the Board a range of risk mitigation tools, to assist in maintaining the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of the ADC.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Outcomes

To understand the role accreditation plays in improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes and producing a culturally safe health workforce, the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (the Forum) developed 'The role of accreditation in improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes' project (the Project) in mid-2018.

As a member of the Forum, and as part of the organisation's commitment to effective stakeholder engagement under the Strategic Plan, the ADC accepted the key leadership role in the delivery of this important project for the accreditation sector.

Through the project, 669 decision makers from 14 accreditation authorities, including the ADC, were invited to participate in the survey to determine the extent to which

accreditation decisions include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' voices. For the ADC, this survey gave the organisation the opportunity to liaise and interact with key stakeholders in order to generate meaningful feedback from the sector.

The survey was distributed to 229 ADC decision makers, the largest sample size of all participating accreditation authorities. Of the ADC's invited participants, 107, or 47 per cent, completed the survey, an outstanding result.

A more detailed analysis of the collected data is underway, with preliminary findings highlighting widespread support for strengthening the involvement and representation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples in accreditation authority decision making.

This commitment falls in line with the ADC's involvement with the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group and the recent signing of the Statement of Intent.

More information about the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme Statement of Intent is available [here](#).

To find out more about Closing the Gap, visit closingthegap.pmc.gov.au

ADC administration and examination centre

The ADC administration and examination centre commenced practical examinations on 9 July following the successful completion of pilot testing in June.

With exams operating on a near weekly basis, the Chief Executive Officer presented the final project report to the Board during the September meeting.

The report outlined the final figures for the project and highlighted the successful delivery of this milestone project on time, on budget, and to a high standard.

Since its completion, the centre has received industry-wide interest with the ADC welcoming visits from within the dental community as well as external visitors from national and international jurisdictions.

Standing Committees of the Board

The ADC Board of Directors noted reports delivered by the ADC and New Zealand Dental Council Accreditation Committee, the Assessment Committee and the Finance Audit and Risk Monitoring Committee.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the ADC Board of Directors will be held on 14 and 15 November 2018, in Melbourne, Victoria. This will be followed by the Annual General Meeting and Member Forum on 16 November 2018.

For more information about the ADC and its work, or help with questions regarding the assessment and accreditation process, please complete an online enquiry [form](#), or contact the ADC on +61 (0) 3 9657 1777.



Conjoint Associate Professor Deborah Cockrell
President, Australian Dental Council
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