



Australian
Dental
Council

Media Release

28 February 2017

ADC responds to release of the Independent Review of Accreditation Systems within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) for health professions discussion paper

The Australian Dental Council (ADC) welcomes the release of the [Independent Review of Accreditation Systems within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professions \(ASR\) discussion paper](#) (the discussion paper) on 27th February 2017. The discussion paper lists a comprehensive and consolidated number of issues the Review team has identified over the past few months and seeks consultation and feedback by way of submission to this paper by stakeholders.

The paper outlines issues in broad categories including improving efficiency, relevance and responsiveness, and the future health workforce. The ADC is committed to the broad areas of consultation and working collaboratively to ensure continuous refinement of accreditation of dental profession programs and assessment of overseas qualified dental practitioners for the benefit of public safety and quality health care provision into the future.

On the release of the discussion paper the ADC CEO Narelle Mills commented, "It is great to see such a comprehensive and consolidated list of issues in relation to accreditation available for all to consider and respond to. Questions raised by the Review team are relevant, appropriate and put everyone on notice to ensure we are continually striving to achieve the NRAS objectives and guiding principles."

The ADC wishes to provide clarity and transparency on the cost of dental accreditation in the NRAS in order to assist stakeholders in their responses to this discussion paper.

In November 2016, the Accreditation Liaison Group (ALG) submitted its paper Cost of Accreditation in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (Costing paper) to the Review team to inform the discussion paper. On page 30 of the discussion paper, the Review team includes a table which identifies income and activity for the period 2013/2014 – 2015/2016 which was derived from the Costing paper. This table includes 'total income' of \$40,656,418 in 2013/2014 to \$40,353,706 in 2015/2016.

The following table includes a breakdown of all income and expenditure for accreditation functions, including accreditation of programs of study as well as assessment of overseas qualified practitioners, reported by all accrediting authorities within the NRAS.

ACN 072 269 900
PO Box 13278
Law Courts, Victoria, Australia 8010
Telephone: +61 3 9657 1777
Email: info@adc.org.au
www.adc.org.au

All Accreditation Authorities, all accreditation functions	Total Income and Expenditure		
	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Total Income (all accreditation authorities, all activities)	\$40,565,418	\$42,307,716	\$40,353,706
Total Expenditure	\$37,757,262	\$36,592,250	\$35,366,351
Total Surplus/(deficit)	\$2,799,157	\$5,715,467	\$4,987,355

The total income amount is broken down into the activities defined as accreditation under the National Law; which also includes assessment of overseas qualified practitioner assessments which is not identified on page 30 of the discussion paper.

The following table provides further information regarding the ADC component of the reported income and expenditure; for all accreditation functions, including assessment of overseas qualified dental practitioners.

Australian Dental Council (ADC), all accreditation functions	Total Income and Expenditure		
	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Total Income	\$6,523,125	\$7,449,216	\$4,832,713
Total Expenditure	\$5,453,012	\$5,051,792	\$4,265,867
Total Surplus/(deficit)	\$1,070,113	\$2,397,424	\$566,846

The following depicts the ADC activity for the corresponding periods:

Accreditation of Programs			
Activity	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Accreditation Standards Developed		1	
Accreditation Standards Reviewed			
New programs accredited	2	0	1
Programs re-accredited	7	19	16
Programs monitored	2	2	3
Site Visits undertaken	10	9	9
TOTAL			
Total Number of programs accredited	58	61	64
Total Number of Providers offering accredited programs	16	18	18

Assessment of overseas qualified practitioners			
Activity	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Overseas qualified dental practitioners assessed	2,227	3,301	2,340

As at 27 February 2017, the ADC accredits 61 programs at varying levels of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) including:

- AQF6 (Advanced Diploma): 6
- AQF7 (Bachelor Degree): 16
- AQF8 (Bachelor with honours /Grad Cert/Grad Dip): 2
- AQF9 (Masters level – including DMD and DClindent): 35

ACN 072 269 900
 PO Box 13278
 Law Courts, Victoria, Australia 8010
 Telephone: +61 3 9657 1777
 Email: info@adc.org.au
www.adc.org.au

- Non-AQF awards: 2

This includes all programs of study leading to a qualification for approval for registration for all divisions of the public register for the dental professions.

In addition, the ADC also assesses (or did assess) the following dental practitioners:

- Overseas qualified general dentists;
- Overseas qualified dental hygienists;
- Overseas qualified dental therapists;
- Overseas qualified dental prosthetists (available March 2017); and
- Overseas qualified dental specialists (until March 2016).

The ADC President, Professor Michael Morgan stated that “the ADC is looking forward to discussions with the Review team and other stakeholders regarding accreditation in the dental professions and the ongoing assurance of public safety if any reforms are to be made.”

End of release.

Media enquiries:

Narelle Mills
Chief Executive Officer

narelle.mills@adc.org.au

0433 913 475

ACN 072 269 900
PO Box 13278
Law Courts, Victoria, Australia 8010
Telephone: +61 3 9657 1777
Email: info@adc.org.au
www.adc.org.au