



AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL

REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

**BACHELOR OF ORAL HEALTH IN DENTAL SCIENCE/GRADUATE DIPLOMA
OF DENTISTRY**

May 2015

SUMMARY REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program provider	Griffith University
Program/qualification name	Bachelor of Oral Health in Dental Science/Graduate Diploma of Dentistry
Program/qualification abbreviation	BOraH/GDipDent
Program/qualification code	1259
Head office address, including State	Gold Coast campus, Queensland 4222
Campus	Griffith Health Centre, School of Dentistry and Oral Health, Level 7, Parklands Drive, Gold Coast campus
Program length	5 Years
Registration division	Dentist
Registration specialty	N/A
Qualification type	Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	7, 8
Accreditation standards version	June 2010 Updated July 2013 - Version 1.0
Date of site evaluation	27-28 May 2015
Date of ADC decision	14 August 2015
Type of accreditation	Re-Accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2016
Accreditation end date	31 December 2022

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Background

Griffith University's Bachelor of Oral Health in Dental Sciences/Graduate Diploma of Dentistry (BOralH/GDipDent) program is a full time, five year combined degree that enables graduates to apply to the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) to register as dentists.

The first student cohort commenced in 2004 and the program was last reviewed for accreditation in 2008, at which time accreditation was granted for a period of seven years.

Griffith University has submitted annual reports to the Australian Dental Council (ADC) each year from 2010 through until 2014, which were determined to be satisfactory to meet the requirements for continued accreditation.

Overview of the Evaluation

An ADC Site Evaluation Team (SET) conducted a site visit on 27 and 28 May 2015 to the School of Dentistry and Oral Health (DOH) at Griffith University's Gold Coast Campus. The visit was a combined review of the BOralH/GDipDent program and the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (DClinDent) in Periodontology program, which is the subject of a separate report.

The SET inspected clinical and learning and teaching facilities within the Griffith Health Centre. Students were observed in the clinic with patients.

The SET reviewed the School's 47 page self-review against the Standards, attached appendices and additional information requested following the SET's teleconference of 13 April 2015.

The SET interviewed a range of stakeholders, including:

- Pro Vice Chancellor Health
- Dean (Learning and Teaching)
- The Head of School
- Deputy Heads of School
- Program Directors
- The School Finance Manager and Senior Financial Consultant
- Course conveners
- Other academic and clinical staff that teach into or assist with the program

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- Administrative and support staff
- Clinical Placements Officer
- Clinical Support Staff
- Ten students and six graduates of the program
- Members of the DOH Learning & Teaching Committee
- Queensland Health's Chief Dental Officer
- Representatives of the Australian Dental Association Queensland (ADAQ)

During the site visit the SET was provided with further documentation including samples of clinical log books of Year 4 and Year 5 students, access to clinical logs and theses completed as a requirement of the School's Honours program.

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

The School of Dentistry and Oral Health is to be congratulated on the development of the program and the impressive facilities now in operation within the Griffith Health Centre. The School is well supported both academically and financially by the Health Group and the University overall. The School's approach to peer support is commendable, with second and third year student mentors required to undertake a two day training program in preparation for assisting students in their foundation year.

The School's approach to team based treatment planning, (the pairing of third, fourth and fifth year dentistry students with students from year 3 of the Bachelor of Oral Health in Dental Technology and Master of Dental Technology in Prosthetics (MDentTech) program) enhances the students' learning experience and provides the opportunity to discuss and manage patients in a simulated practice environment. The team based approach also provides students at varying skill levels with appropriate patients and procedures.

The SET encourages the School to follow through on plans to reduce the student intake in 2016, with the size of the current student cohort impacting on the duration of outplacement opportunities available for students in their final year. The School has identified an issue with the availability of some instruments in clinic and the SET were made aware of the steps being taken by the School to resolve these issues. This must be addressed to ensure patient treatment is not affected.

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The School's integrated curriculum is working well, but the teaching of scientific method could be more explicitly outlined in the course learning objectives to ensure students recognise and understand its relevance. Students would also benefit from a brief introduction to dental assisting to facilitate readiness for efficient and effective clinic operation, but overall the evidence indicates that the program is preparing students with the attributes and competencies required for solo practice after graduation.

ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that Griffith University's Bachelor of Oral Health in Dental Science/Graduate Diploma of Dentistry program is re-accredited for seven (7) years without conditions until **31 December 2022**.