



**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF
UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY**

October 2017

SUMMARY REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program provider	University of Adelaide
Program/qualification name	Bachelor of Dental Surgery
Program/qualification abbreviation	BDS
Program/qualification code	
Head office address, including State	The University of Adelaide, SA 5005
Campus	North Terrace Campus
Program length	5 Years
Registration division	Dentist
Registration specialty	NA
Qualification type	HE
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	7
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
Date of site evaluation	18 October 2017
Date of ADC decision	12 December 2017
Type of accreditation	Monitoring
Accreditation start date	1 January 2017
Accreditation end date	31 December 2023

SUMMARY REPORT

Background

The Australian Dental Council (ADC) last reviewed the University of Adelaide's Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) program in 2016. At the time of this review a newly established "Dental Partnership" agreement between the University of Adelaide and South Australia Health (SA Health) was recognised as a future major change to the program.

The partnership agreement included an investment from the University in the new Adelaide Dental Hospital (ADH) which opened in July 2017. From July 2017, students in the BDS program utilise the new facilities at the ADH within the Adelaide's Health and Medical Sciences (AHMS) Building.

The BDS program is accredited until 31 December 2023 subject to a monitoring requirement that a visit be undertaken before 31 December 2017 to review the new ADH and confirm that the clinical and other facilities are appropriate to allow the program to meet its objectives.

Overview of the Evaluation

The Site Evaluation Team (SET) received the University of Adelaide's limited submission totalling five pages. The School was requested to address in its submission Accreditation Standards and criteria specific to the new clinical facilities, including Standard 1 – Public Safety, specifically criterion 1.4 and 1.5 and Standard 3 – Program of Study, specifically criteria 3.8, 3.9 and 3.11.

Further information was requested from the School following the SET teleconference of 17 August 2017.

The SET undertook a site visit to the ADH on 18 October 2017 to review facilities in accordance with the monitoring requirement for the BDS program. This review was combined with the visit to address conditions of accreditation imposed on the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (DClinDent) programs which are the subject of a separate report. During the visit, meetings were held with:

- Interim Dean and Head of School of Dentistry
- Staff with overall responsibility for the BDS and DClinDent programs
- Assistant Dean, Clinical
- A representative from the South Australian Dental Service (SADS)
- Casual clinical demonstrators for the BDS and DClinDent programs
- A range of 3rd, 4th and 5th year BDS students
- DClinDent students

SUMMARY REPORT

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 new clinical facilities are excellent, with students rostered to 40 chairs within the ADH. Students are supervised by suitably qualified and registered practitioners and the School benefits from the additional resources of the SADS in the management of compliance with relevant regulations and standards related to the clinical facilities.

The move to the new facilities has created challenges that the School will need to address. The process for assigning patients to BDS students was highlighted as an area of concern that is impacting on the student clinical experience. Patients are not matched to students' abilities, which is creating less opportunity for students to develop the required clinical competencies. Patients that are not matched to students' abilities must be referred on to either higher year levels or specialist dental practitioners and this is resulting in less opportunity to develop clinical competencies, particularly for students in Years 3 and 4 of the program.

The rebooking of patients who fail to attend repeatedly and issues with the flow of patients from the reception area into the clinic were also highlighted as having a negative impact on student clinical experience. The School will need to work with the SADS to resolve these issues.

Students are not able to access patient records outside of the clinic, making diagnosis, treatment planning and case presentations difficult for students. The changes to administrative support available to the School are also impacting on the program, with a reduction in professional support staff resulting in academic staff taking on a greater administrative load.

ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that the October 2017 visit to confirm the clinical and other facilities are appropriate satisfies the monitoring requirement for the University of Adelaide's Bachelor of Dental Surgery program.

The ADC has determined the accreditation of the BDS program is continued subject to the following condition:

SUMMARY REPORT

To demonstrate that Standard 3 – Program of Study is met, the University of Adelaide is to provide a report to the ADC by **28 February 2018** detailing how the School will ensure that patients allocated to BDS students within the ADH are matched to the level of student experience and competence. The report should also provide details of how the School identifies any gaps in a student's clinical experience and the actions that are taken to ensure students are provided the opportunity to develop the required professional competencies prior to graduation.