



**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF
UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
BACHELOR OF ORAL HEALTH**

September 2015

SUMMARY REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program provider	University of Queensland
Program/qualification name	Bachelor of Oral Health
Program/qualification abbreviation	BOralH
Program/qualification code	2017
Head office address, including State	St Lucia, QLD 4072
Campus	Herston
Program length	3 years
Registration division	Dental Therapist, Dental Hygienist, Oral Health Therapist
Registration specialty	NA
Qualification type	HE
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	Level 7
Accreditation standards version	June 2010 version 1.0
Date of site evaluation	17 September 2015
Date of ADC decision	29 October 2015
Type of accreditation	Monitoring Visit
Accreditation start date	1 January 2014
Accreditation end date	31 December 2018

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Background

The University of Queensland's Bachelor of Oral Health (BOralH) program was last reviewed by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in 2014 at which time the program was accredited for a period of five years, subject to a condition that a monitoring visit be undertaken in the second half of 2015. The purpose of the monitoring visit is to determine whether the new Oral Health Centre (OHC) on the University's Herston campus maintains the provision of student clinical experience and appropriate operation of the clinic in accordance with Standard 5 (Physical facilities and resources), Standard 10 (Clinic administration) and Standard 11 (Preparation for practice).

Subsequent to the ADC's accreditation decision, the School of Dentistry advised the ADC of its intention to suspend the BOralH program, with no further intake from 2015 onwards. The ADC determined that the monitoring visit be expanded to ensure that students remaining in the BOralH program were provided with the adequate support and resources to complete the program.

Overview of the Evaluation

An ADC Site Evaluation Team (SET) conducted a monitoring visit to the University of Queensland's OHC on the Herston Campus on 17 September 2015. This combined visit reviewed the BOralH program and the Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours) (BDSc(Hons)) program. The BDSc(Hons) program is the subject of a separate report.

The SET reviewed the School's 10 page submission against the three accreditation standards identified above, as well as the additional information requested from the School following the SET's teleconference held on 17 August 2015.

The SET met with a range of staff and students involved in the program including:

- The Head of School
- The Deputy Head of School
- Business Manager
- Student and academic services manager
- BOralH Program Coordinator
- Year Coordinators
- Dental Services Team Leader

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- Treatment Coordinator
- Senior Dental Assistant
- Students from all years of the program.

The SET toured the facilities, observed students in clinic and were provided with additional material at the time of the visit including student clinical logbooks and reports from the Spark Titanium ® Patient Management System.

Addendum to the report

Further information was provided by the School on 16 October 2015, detailing actions taken to address areas of concern raised by the SET during its monitoring visit of 17 September 2015. The information provided included a summary of additional intensive placements organised for third year students and statistics on the treatments provided by third year students in 2015.

A further monitoring visit was undertaken on 26 October 2015 by an ADC Monitoring Team to follow up on issues raised by the SET in their report of a monitoring visit undertaken on 17 September 2015.

The monitoring team met with the following stakeholders:

- The Deputy Head of School
- Year 2 and 3 BOralH Course Co-ordinators
- The BDDSc(Hons) Course Co-ordinator
- The School Business Manager
- Four final year students
- The clinical supervisor for the students

Key Findings

The School of Dentistry is to be commended for the new facilities now in operation at the OHC. Student access to pre-clinical and clinical facilities are excellent. Students have access to meeting rooms, library computers and break out space within the Student

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Centre located within the new building. The clinical protocols provided to the SET are appropriate to ensure a safe clinical environment is maintained for staff, students and patients.

The SET is concerned that the BOralH students have had limited access to paediatric patients for the development of skills and competencies in dental therapy. The evidence gathered by the SET indicates that this limited access to appropriate paediatric patients has limited the opportunity for repeated practice over the range of competencies in dental therapy expected of the newly graduated oral health therapist.

The SET is also uncertain as to the staffing profile that will remain in place for students completing their third and final year in 2017 as current staff are only contracted until the end of 2016. The School will need to provide evidence that staff remain available in 2017 to assist students to complete the program. The School will also need to ensure that adequate student representation is maintained as the BOralH program is taught out. The SET is unclear as to whether students have been able to attend Committee meetings on which they have representation.

The School is encouraged to ensure that sufficient Treatment Coordinators are available to greet patients on arrival at the various clinics in operation within the Oral Health Centre, particularly as patients learn to navigate around the new facility. Reception areas left unattended may create a safety risk for patients, students and staff.

Addendum to the Report

The further monitoring visit focused on the BOralH program's compliance with Accreditation Standards 6 – Staff and staff development, 10 – Clinic administration, 11 – Preparation for practice and 13 - Student privileges, support and representation.

The ADC Monitoring Team confirmed the findings of the SET in that the staff profile had not yet been finalised for 2017 and as such further information is required at a later stage to confirm that Standard 6 continues to be met.

The ADC Monitoring Team further investigated the reception system at the Oral Health Centre and the additional information gathered indicates that appropriate signage is in place to direct patients on arrival.

The ADC Monitoring Team confirmed that students have gained approximately six additional weeks of clinical experience in Dental Therapy, with placements organised within Queensland Health clinics. The information gathered indicates that final examinations,

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including a viva incorporating external examiners, will provide an appropriate test of competence prior to graduation. There is also the opportunity for further clinical make up sessions prior to graduation for this student cohort if necessary.

Further evidence gathered during the follow up visit indicates that BOralH students do have appropriate representation on the Teaching and Learning Committee, although it appears that some meetings may clash with student clinical placements commitments. In the event this occurs an alternate may attend, a report may be submitted or the student representative may request to be excused their clinical session to attend.

ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that the accreditation of the University of Queensland's Bachelor of Oral Health program is maintained until **31 December 2018**, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) To ensure Standard 11 – Preparation for practice is met in full, the University of Queensland must:
 - a. include two external examiners in a summative assessment at the end of semester two 2015, with the examiners to provide a report to the ADC verifying that students have developed the competencies expected of a newly graduated oral health therapist.
 - b. include two external examiners approved by the ADC in a summative assessment at the end of semester two 2016, with the examiners to provide a report to the ADC verifying that students have developed the competencies expected of a newly graduated oral health therapist.
- 2) To ensure Standard 6 - Staff and staff development is met in full, the University of Queensland is to provide a report to the ADC by **30 September 2016** detailing the staffing arrangements to be put in place for the remaining third year students in 2017.