



Australian Dental Council report of an evaluation of Charles Sturt University's Bachelor of Oral Health (Therapy and Hygiene) program

August 2018

Summary report

Program provider	Charles Sturt University
Program/qualification name	Bachelor of Oral Health (Therapy and Hygiene)
Program/qualification abbreviation	BOralHlth(Therapy&Hygiene)
Program/qualification code	4430TH
Head office address, including State	Panorama Avenue, Bathurst NSW 2795
Campuses	Wagga Wagga, NSW Chadstone campus, Holmesglen Institute, VIC
Program length	3 Years
Registration division	Dental Hygienist, Dental Therapist, Oral Health Therapist
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	7 - 8 August 2018
Date of ADC decision	2 November 2018
Type of accreditation	Re-Accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2019
Accreditation end date	31 December 2023

Background

Charles Sturt University's (CSU's) Bachelor of Oral Health (Therapy/Hygiene) program was last accredited in 2013 at which time the program was accredited for a period of five years. The nomenclature changed in 2015 to ensure the award name was consistent with CSU policy, replacing the '/' with the word 'and', leading to the current program title Bachelor of Oral Health (Therapy and Hygiene).

A range of conditions were imposed at the time of the 2013 review relating to third party delivery arrangements that commenced with Holmesglen TAFE in 2014, including that a monitoring visit be undertaken to review these arrangements.

A monitoring visit was undertaken to Holmesglen's Chadstone campus in 2014 and subsequently, all conditions were deemed to have been met.

There are two cohorts of students enrolled each year, one based at Holmesglen Institute's Chadstone campus and the other at CSU's Wagga Wagga campus. CSU students based at Holmesglen's Chadstone campus undertake didactic learning based on the curriculum provided by CSU staff and facilitated by Holmesglen staff. The pre-clinical training is undertaken in the purpose built simulation facility for the first two years of the program and is supplemented by clinical training in blocks undertaken at the Wagga Wagga campus. The two cohorts of students combine at the Wagga Wagga campus to complete the final year of the program.

Graduates are able to apply for registration with the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) as dental hygienists, dental therapists and/or oral health therapists and are able to provide dental therapy care to patients aged under 26 years old.

Overview of evaluation

An Australian Dental Council (ADC) Site Evaluation Team (SET) conducted a site visit on 7 August 2018 to Holmesglen Institutes' Chadstone campus and on 8 August 2018 to CSU's Wagga Wagga campus. The SET reviewed the School of Dentistry and Health Sciences' 76 page self-review against the Standards, attached appendices and additional information requested following the SET's teleconference of 18 June 2018.

During the visit the SET interviewed a range of individuals, including:

- Executive Dean - CSU
- Head of School
- Executive Director – Education & Applied Research Holmesglen
- Dean of Health Science – Holmesglen
- Head of Department – Holmesglen
- Course Director
- Discipline Lead

- Holmesglen Discipline Lead
- Sub-Dean of Workplace Learning and Accreditation
- Academic staff teaching into the program at Holmesglen and Wagga Wagga
- Casual staff at Holmesglen
- Clinical Director
- Sessional Clinical Tutors
- Members of the Learning and Teaching Committee
- Simulation Managers at Holmesglen and Wagga Wagga
- Students from all years and locations
- Two recent graduates (one from the Wagga Wagga cohort and one from the Holmesglen cohort)
- A representative of the Murrumbidgee Local Health District

The SET toured the simulation facilities at Holmesglen Institute and the simulation and clinical facilities at CSU's Wagga Wagga campus. The SET observed students in clinic at CSU's Wagga Wagga campus and in the simulation facilities at both locations.

During the visit the SET was provided with additional information including a demonstration of the clinical marking system, the clinic manual, examples of clinical log books and examples of assessments and assessment rubrics for all student cohorts.

Key findings

CSU's Bachelor of Oral Health (Therapy and Hygiene) program is preparing students well for practice. There is a strong emphasis on patient safety and providing graduates that are culturally safe to practice in a variety of rural and regional settings.

Since the previous site visit the relationship between Holmesglen Institute and CSU has developed well, with clear communication between the staff at both locations ensuring consistency in program delivery and assessment.

Prior to the accreditation visit, the program was the subject of a University course review and the School is working through several changes that will be introduced in 2019. The changes are expected to further improve program delivery and enhance student experience and assessment.

The School is investigating opportunities to provide graduates with the knowledge, skills and experience required to provide dental therapy treatment to persons of all ages in response to feedback from employers and placement providers. The School is aware of the need to advise the ADC in advance of such changes being implemented.

ADC accreditation decision

The ADC has determined that Charles Sturt University's Bachelor of Oral Health (Therapy and Hygiene) program is re-accredited without conditions until **31 December 2023**.