



# Australian Dental Council report of an evaluation of Griffith University's Bachelor of Dental Hygiene program

July 2019

## Summary Report

Program provider	Griffith University
Program/qualification name	Bachelor of Dental Hygiene
Program/qualification abbreviation	BDentHyg
Program/qualification code	1613
Head office address, including State	School of Dentistry and Oral Health Griffith University Gold Coast Campus Queensland 4222
Campus	Gold Coast
Program length	3 years full time
Registration division	Dental hygienist
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	10 - 11 July 2019
Date of ADC decision	9 August 2019
Type of accreditation	Initial accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2020
Accreditation end date	31 December 2024

## Background

In October 2018, Griffith University's School of Dentistry and Oral Health advised the Australian Dental Council (ADC) of plans to introduce two new programs scheduled to commence in 2020.

The ADC accepted both notices of intent and in consultation with the provider, organised to review the newly developed Bachelor of Dental Hygiene (BDentHyg) program and the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (DClinDent) (Endodontics) program simultaneously. The review of the DClinDent (Endodontics) is the subject of a separate report.

The School plans to commence the BDentHyg program in 2020, with graduates eligible to apply for registration with the Dental Board of Australia as a dental hygienist.

## Overview of evaluation

An ADC Site Evaluation Team (SET) conducted a site visit on 10 and 11 July 2019 to Griffith University's Gold Coast Campus. The SET reviewed the School of Dentistry and Oral Health's self-review against the Standards, attached appendices and additional information requested following the SET's teleconference of 29 May 2019.

During the visit, the SET interviewed a range of individuals that have been or will be involved in the BDENTHYG program, including:

- Dean (Academic)
- Dean - Learning & Teaching
- Head of School
- Deputy Heads of School
- Program Director
- Manager, DOH Dental Clinic
- Academic staff that will teach into the program
- DOH School Manager
- Clinical Placement Officer
- Clinical Sessions Coordinator
- Financial Consultant
- Finance Business Partner
- Program Support Officer

- Academic Support Officer
- Griffith University Dental Student Association (GUDSA) President
- GUDSA Vice-president
- Student representatives from the Dentistry program and DCLinDent in Periodontics program.

## Key findings

The School of Dentistry and Oral Health has provided a detailed curriculum, which is expected to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to practise safely as dental hygienists upon graduation. The School is well-supported by the wider Health Group and has the staffing profile and facilities required to deliver the program.

The planning that has been undertaken by the School will ensure the proposed intake of 24 students per year can be accommodated within the available pre-clinical and clinical spaces at the Griffith Health Centre. The evidence gathered indicates that the variety of cases required for students to develop the required professional competencies are available within Griffith's Clinics. Opportunities for students to undertake clinical training in a variety of settings should be considered (e.g. geriatric and special needs placements). This could further enhance students' readiness to practise.

The School is to be commended on the strong focus on intra-professional practise embedded through existing programs, which will be enhanced with the introduction of the BDentHyg program. BDentHyg students will work with other members of the dental team, including students enrolled in dentistry, postgraduate periodontics, dental prosthetics and dental technology programs.

## ADC accreditation decision

The ADC has determined Griffith University's Bachelor of Dental Hygiene program is accredited from **1 January 2020** until **31 December 2024**.