



Australian Dental Council report of an evaluation of TAFE SA's Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene) program

May 2019

Summary Report

Program provider	TAFE SA
Program/qualification name	Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene)
Program/qualification abbreviation	ADOH(DH)
Program/qualification code	10286NAT
Head office address, including State	120 Currie Street Adelaide, South Australia 5001
Campus	Gilles Plains Campus - 33 Blacks Road Gilles Plains, South Australia 5001
Program length	2 Years FTE
Registration division	Dental Hygienist
Registration specialty	NA
Qualification type	VET
Australian Qualifications Framework level	6
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
Date of site evaluation	22 - 23 May 2019
Date of ADC decision	9 August 2019
Type of accreditation	Reaccreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2020
Accreditation end date	31 December 2024

Background

TAFE SA's Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene) program was last visited by the Australian Dental Council in 2014. The program was accredited without conditions until 31 December 2019.

Graduates of the program are eligible to apply to the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) for registration as a dental hygienist.

Overview of evaluation

An ADC Site Evaluation Team (SET) conducted a site visit on 22-23 May 2019 to the TAFE SA campuses at Gilles Plains and Adelaide city. The SET reviewed the TAFE's submission against the Standards, attached appendices and additional information requested following the SET's teleconference on 8 April 2019.

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

- Senior leadership
- Program co-ordinator and year level co-ordinators
- Clinical supervisors
- Academic staff (permanent and casual)
- Professional staff
- Student support staff
- Current students
- Recent graduates
- External stakeholders including placement providers

The SET toured the Dental clinic at TAFE SA, the dental simulation clinic at the University of Adelaide and the dentistry facilities at the Adelaide Dental Hospital.

During the visit, the SET was provided with additional information including:

- Clinical assessment tool
- Examples of completed clinical logbooks
- Information about the teaching of peri-implant diseases

Key findings

The evidence gathered by the SET indicates that TAFE SA's Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene) program produces graduates competent to practice.

The SET identified a small number of areas for continuous improvement. The TAFE should consider during the upcoming curriculum review how the teaching and assessment of peri-implant diseases might be better integrated across the curriculum. Student learning would also be enhanced if students had greater access to equipment that would enable them to practise implant maintenance. Students in the program have exposure to clinical care outside of the TAFE in areas including special needs, orthodontics and aged-care. The TAFE might build on this by considering more opportunities for students to provide direct patient care in these settings. The TAFE might consider including program content on the contemporary concepts of biofilm control. Student access to peer-reviewed journals and e-books and the existing paper-based approach to clinical assessment might also be improved.

The SET identified a number of commendable aspects of the program including the cohesiveness of the teaching team and the strong relationships with the University of Adelaide and the South Australian Dental Service (SADS). The SET gathered evidence that the program and the graduates it produces were highly regarded by stakeholders including employers and the dental profession.

ADC accreditation decision

The ADC has determined TAFE SA's Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene) program is reaccredited without conditions until **31 December 2024**.