



# Australian Dental Council report of an evaluation of the University of Melbourne's Bachelor of Oral Health program

October 2018

## Summary report

Program provider	University of Melbourne
Program/qualification name	Bachelor of Oral Health
Program/qualification abbreviation	BOH
Program/qualification code	841AC
Head office address, including State	720 Swanston Street, Melbourne VIC 3010
Campus	Melbourne Dental School
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	9 - 10 October 2018
Date of ADC decision	12 December 2018
Type of accreditation	Re-Accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2019
Accreditation end date	31 December 2023

## Background

The University of Melbourne's Bachelor of Oral Health was last visited by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in 2013. The program was accredited without conditions until 31 December 2018.

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

## Overview of evaluation

An ADC Site Evaluation Team (SET) conducted a site visit on 9-10 October 2018 to the University of Melbourne, Melbourne Dental School (MDS). The SET reviewed the University of Melbourne's submission against the Standards, attached appendices and additional information requested following the SET's teleconference of 27 August 2018.

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

- Academic staff including year co-ordinators
- Clinical supervisors
- Current students and recent graduates
- Deputy Head of School
- Program coordinator
- Representative of Melbourne Centre for Indigenous Health
- Representatives of Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV) and clinical outplacement providers
- Representatives of the Australian Dental Association, Dental Hygienists Association of Australia and the Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists' Association

The SET toured the laboratory and simulation facilities at the MDS and the clinical facilities at the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne (RDHM).

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

- Clinical and pre-clinical assessment rubrics and examples of clinical assessments
- Course outlines
- Examples of student research projects
- Mapping of where cultural competence graduate learning capabilities are addressed in program content
- Timetables for all three years of the program

## Key findings

The evidence gathered by the SET indicates that the University of Melbourne's Bachelor of Oral Health program produces graduates competent to practice across a range of oral health workplace settings.

The SET identified a small number of areas for continuous improvement. The SET gathered evidence that students undertaking final year private placement placements in orthodontics have variable opportunity to undertake orthodontic procedures because the procedures that each student is able to perform are dependent on the amount of delegation the practitioners in the clinic are prepared to allow. The School should consider how it might ensure that students gain equitable orthodontic experiences. The SET gathered evidence of how the program ensures individual students have experience of a range of clinical procedures and cases. To improve, the School should consider introducing a more explicit and workable strategy to identify students who need experience across specific clinical procedures and cases, in order to implement appropriate action in a timely manner. Furthermore, the program should also consider how to streamline orientation for first year students so that students are fully informed about timetables, expectations and specific timing of assessments.

The SET identified a number of commendable aspects of the program. They include the comprehensive and well-scaffolded social, behavioural sciences and health promotion stream; the excellent undergraduate research skills content; the cohesiveness, dedication and creativity of the current teaching team; and the program's continuing commitment to strengthening its aboriginal health component.

## ADC accreditation decision

The ADC has determined that the University of Melbourne's Bachelor of Oral Health program is reaccredited until **31 December 2023**.