



# Australian Dental Council report of an evaluation of the University of Queensland's Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Special Needs Dentistry program

June 2019

## Summary Report

Program provider	University of Queensland
Program/qualification name	Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Special Needs Dentistry
Program/qualification abbreviation	DClinDent SND
Program/qualification code	
Head office address, including State	288 Herston Road, Herston QLD 4006
Campus	Herston
Program length	3 Years
Registration division	Specialist Dentist
Registration specialty	Special Needs Dentistry
Qualification type	HE
Australian Qualifications Framework level	9
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
Date of site evaluation	5 - 6 June 2019
Date of ADC decision	9 August 2019
Type of accreditation	Monitoring
Accreditation start date	1 January 2018
Accreditation end date	31 December 2022

## Background

The University of Queensland's Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (DClinDent) in Special Needs Dentistry program was visited for initial accreditation on 28 July 2017.

The program was accredited without conditions from 1 January 2018 until 31 December 2022. As a monitoring requirement, it was decided that a monitoring visit was to be undertaken when the first cohort of students have completed 18 months of the program to ensure that the program is rolling out as intended.

## Overview of evaluation

An ADC Site Evaluation Team (SET) conducted a site visit on 5-6 June 2019 to the University of Queensland. The SET reviewed the University of Queensland's 2017 site visit report and submission, 2019 site visit submission and appendices and additional information requested following the SET's teleconference of 24 April 2019. The monitoring visit took place concurrently with a monitoring visit to the Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours) program.

The education provider's submission provided an update about changes / developments since the last site visit under each of the five accreditation standards. As the purpose of the monitoring visit was to check that the program was rolling out as intended, the SET focused on standards 3, 4 and 5 of the Accreditation standards. In the course of its evaluation, the SET also gathered evidence against standard 1 and this is outlined overleaf.

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

- School Management Team including Head of School.
- Support staff
- Representatives of Metro North Health
- Program co-ordinator
- Students
- Graduates
- Teaching staff
- Clinical supervisors

The SET also toured the facilities at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Maxillofacial Unit Dental Clinic.

During the visit the SET was provided with additional information including a sample of records of clinical procedures completed by students.

## Key findings

The evidence gathered by the SET indicates that the University of Queensland's Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Special Needs Dentistry program allows students to access a sufficient number and range of patient cases in order to be competent to practice.

The SET identified two areas for improvement. Students are supervised by appropriately qualified SND specialists. The SET gathered evidence that there may be occasions where students are supervised by supervisors who have their own clinical load or where the supervisor is only available remotely. The SET strongly recommends that the School review current arrangements to ensure that students have timely and appropriate access to SND specialist supervision. It will be important in particular that appropriate supervision arrangements are considered carefully should student numbers increase.

There is work underway to purchase necessary equipment to facilitate the treatment of patients with complex needs in aged care settings. The SET considered that this would be a positive development which would improve student competency in managing complex aged care patients.

## ADC accreditation decision

The ADC has determined the site visit satisfies all monitoring requirements for the University of Queensland's Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Special Needs Dentistry program and accreditation is maintained until **31 December 2022**.

As a monitoring requirement to ensure the program continues to comply with Standard 3 – Program of study - and is providing students with experiences in complex patient management in aged care settings, the University of Queensland is to report on the implementation of plans to purchase equipment to facilitate advanced patient care by students in domiciliary settings and the experiences students have gained or will gain as a result. The report is due by **31 March 2020**.