



**Australian Dental Council report of an evaluation of  
The University of Adelaide - Doctor of Clinical Dentistry  
in Special Needs Dentistry program**

April 2022

## 1. Executive summary

<b>Program provider</b>	The University of Adelaide
<b>Program/qualification name</b>	Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Special Needs Dentistry
<b>Program/qualification abbreviation</b>	DClinDent
<b>Program/qualification code</b>	DRCD
<b>Head office address, including State</b>	The University of Adelaide, Adelaide SA 5005
<b>Campus</b>	North Terrace Campus
<b>Program length</b>	3
<b>Registration division</b>	Specialist Dentist
<b>Registration specialty</b>	Special Needs Dentistry
<b>Qualification type</b>	HE
<b>Australian Qualifications Framework level</b>	9
<b>Accreditation standards version</b>	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved August 2020)
<b>Date of site evaluation</b>	5 April 2022
<b>Date of ADC decision</b>	12 August 2022
<b>Type of accreditation</b>	Reaccreditation
<b>Accreditation start date</b>	1 January 2023
<b>Accreditation end date</b>	31 December 2027

## Background

The University of Adelaide's Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (DClinDent) in Special Needs Dentistry program was last reviewed for reaccreditation by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in January 2018. The program was accredited without conditions for five years until 31 December 2022.

Graduates of the DClinDent in (Special Needs Dentistry) program are eligible to apply for registration with the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) as specialists in Special Needs Dentistry (SND).

## Overview of evaluation

An Accreditation Team (AT) received The University of Adelaide's submission against the Accreditation Standards and various appendices. The AT requested additional information prior to the site visit and also reviewed annual reports submitted for the program.

The AT undertook a visit to the Adelaide Health and Medical Sciences Building on 5 April 2022 and toured facilities at the Adelaide Health and Medical Sciences Centre for Special Needs Dentistry.

Interviews were held with the following participants:

- Dean and Head of School
- Postgraduate Clinical Learning and Teaching Lead
- Postgraduate Program Coordinator – Special Needs Dentistry
- Chair and members of the School Program Board
- Academic and clinical staff
- Professional staff
- General Manager, Adelaide Dental Hospital
- Current students
- Recent graduates

The AT also toured the facilities within the Adelaide Dental Hospital.

The findings in this report are based on the AT's assessment of the material outlined above, interview evidence and a review of the facilities at the time of the site visit.

## Key findings

The DClintDent in SND program has developed significantly since the last ADC visit and is embracing novel and innovative ways for students across Australia to engage in collaborative learning activities.

The AT is of the view that the DClintDent in Special Needs Dentistry program is providing students with the opportunity to develop the competencies expected of an entry level specialist in Special Needs Dentistry. The program is well structured, with students well supported by a dedicated and well qualified teaching staff.

At the forefront of the program is a focus on patient safety and the provision of patient-centred care is prominent in learning outcomes and the preparation of students in providing care. The AT explored the range of patients, clinical experiences, and opportunities for students to develop the knowledge and skills needed for specialist practice in the discipline and is satisfied that this is achieved and well understood by all involved with the program. However, student experience around IV sedation needs to be strengthened. The provider is exploring expanding clinical placement opportunities for students, including involvement in clinical patient care at the Special Care Dental Health Units of Oral Health Services Tasmania (OHST) and Westmead Sydney. Such outreach placements will also provide experience in IV sedation.

The assessment practices are robust and are clearly linked to the learning outcomes. Assessment strategies are appropriate, and there are clear processes in place to ensure consistency of assessment practices across clinical educators.

The AT was impressed by the facilities made available to the students through the Partnership Agreement between the University and the Central Adelaide Local Health Network.

Students are well supported by the program, both professionally and pastorally, and appropriate support services are available to assist students in achieve in the program. The academic governance processes, incorporate both internal and external feedback, professional peer review and consumer input.

The AT was advised of the work being undertaken across the Faculty and School to address the requirements to ensure students are culturally safe in the provision of care, including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The School has made significant progress in embedding cultural safety training within its programs with further planning in place to strengthen such training.

The AT has also identified a small number of areas for ongoing improvement, which are outlined at the end of this report.

## ADC accreditation decision

The ADC has determined that The University of Adelaide's Doctor of Clinical Dentistry program is reaccredited for five years from **1 January 2023** until **31 December 2027**.

The ADC has determined that as a monitoring requirement for the program:

1. The provider is requested to provide by **30 June 2023**, an update on whether the planned outplacements at Hobart and Westmead Sydney have been put in place and providing details, including how the provider will ensure equivalent supervision and assessment arrangements to those at Adelaide clinical facilities.