



# **Australian Dental Council report of an evaluation of The University of Queensland's Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Endodontics, Periodontics & Special Needs Dentistry**

May 2022

## 1. Executive summary

<b>Program provider</b>	The University of Queensland
<b>Program/qualification name</b>	Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Endodontics Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Periodontics Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Special Needs Dentistry
<b>Program/qualification abbreviation</b>	DClinDent
<b>Program/qualification code</b>	5616
<b>Head office address, including State</b>	288 Herston Road, Herston, QLD 4006
<b>Campus</b>	Herston Campus
<b>Program length</b>	3 Years
<b>Registration division</b>	Specialist dentist
<b>Registration specialty</b>	Endodontics, Periodontics, 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>	31 May to 1 June 2021
<b>Date of ADC decision</b>	12 August 2022
<b>Type of accreditation</b>	Re-Accreditation
<b>Accreditation start date</b>	1 January 2023
<b>Accreditation end date</b>	31 December 2027

## Background

The University of Queensland offers seven Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (DClinDent) programs, each enabling graduates to apply for registration in different specialisations with the Dental Board of Australia (DBA). The programs are on differing cycles of accreditation, due in part to differences in timing of their introduction. The programs in Endodontics, Periodontics and Special Needs Dentistry (SND) were reviewed on this occasion.

An initial accreditation of the three programs was undertaken by the ADC in 2017. At this point in time each program was accredited for a period of five years without conditions. The Prosthodontics program was also subject to an additional monitoring visit in 2017 to ensure the program was being implemented as outlined.

The monitoring requirements for these programs were addressed within the stipulated time frames.

The majority of clinical training takes place in the Oral Health Centre (OHC) via the Oral Health Alliance (OHA) with the Metro North Hospital and Health Service (MNHHS).

## Overview of evaluation

An Accreditation Team (AT) received the School of Dentistry's submission against the Accreditation Standards and various appendices. The AT requested additional information and clarification prior to the visit following its teleconferences held on 28 and 29 April 2022.

A site visit was undertaken on 31 May and 1 June 2022 at the Oral Health Centre in Herston, Queensland. Interviews were held with the following participants:

- Associate Dean Academic, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences
- Head of School
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry Program Director
- Director: Learning and Teaching
- Oral Health Alliance Academic Director
- Oral Health Centre Clinical Director
- Academic Lead, Curriculum Design and Integration
- Discipline leads for each specialisation
- Academic and clinical staff teaching into each specialisation
- Current students for all disciplines
- Recent graduates for all disciplines
- Employers
- Academic staff coordinating research teaching within the DClInDent program
- Professional staff, including the School Manager, Team Leader and Senior Administration Officer
- Student support staff

The AT also viewed clinical facilities within the OHC for the three specialisations.

The findings of this report are based on the AT's assessment of the material outlined above and interview evidence.

## Key findings

The University of Queensland's DClInDent programs in Endodontics, Periodontics and SND provide a range of experiences required for students to develop the competencies expected for each of the three dental specialisations. The research component of the programs is excellent with very strong support for students.

The provider is well placed to deliver the programs. The programs are financially well resourced and the clinical facilities at the OHC are excellent. SND students also undertake placements at a range of offsite clinics including hospitals, residential aged care facilities and residential supported accommodation. Students are provided with opportunities to work collaboratively with other dental specialities and health professionals, which enhances students' readiness to work in multi-disciplinary teams to provide care consistent with the expectations of dental specialist.

Each program is led by an experienced and well qualified program lead however the AT is concerned that there is a heavy reliance and workload for these positions, which may not be sustainable long term. Recruiting additional staff to support the Endodontics and SND leads would be of benefit.

Access to the clinical facilities and a ready supply of patients is assured through an agreement with MNHHS. The communication between the two partners appears to be very collegial. At the site visit the AT was made aware that the relationship with MNHHS is under a scheduled review and the outcome of this is not yet known, although it is not envisaged that there will be any issues. There are comprehensive policies and processes in place for patient and public safety.

All three programs are clearly structured, and each has a clear philosophy and objectives. In terms of assessment, the AT saw evidence that a range of both formative and summative assessment tools are used in the program.

Whilst evidence was provided of mechanisms for student and professional feedback into the programs, there is no formalised means of seeking input from a broader range of stakeholders including dental consumers. The School recognises the need for this and is planning to integrate such feedback into the governance structure. The AT heard that an External Advisory Committee is to be established and the AT proposes that this is a priority for the School.

Whilst the site visit indicated a respect for and understanding of the specific needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, the barriers faced in accessing and receiving dental care and cultural safety requirements, embedding cultural safety into the curriculum and assessment of this is a work in progress. A suite of four cultural safety units is available to students. These are to be mandatory and a hurdle requirement prior to students providing clinical care. Assessment of the units is currently being developed and it is anticipated that this will be rolled out in 2023.

Input into the design and management of the program from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples is occurring at the wider University and Faculty levels but is yet to be incorporated at the School level. Whilst the AT acknowledges that the University is making progress towards ensuring external input into the design and management of programs from First Nations people the gap at School level does need to be addressed.

A number of further recommendations have been made where areas were identified for potential improvement.



## ADC accreditation decision

The ADC has determined that the following programs offered by The University of Queensland are reaccredited for a period of five (5) years from **1 January 2023 to 31 December 2027**:

- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Endodontics
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Periodontics
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Special Needs Dentistry

subject to the following conditions:

### For all three programs:

1. To meet Standard 2 – Academic Governance and Quality Assurance, The University of Queensland is requested to review the governance structures for the DClinDent programs to ensure a coordinated approach to external input relevant to each specialisation, including from dental consumers, external academic, and professional peers is included in quality assurance processes. A report is to be submitted to the ADC by **4 February 2023** providing an update on the status of the External Advisory Committee and providing evidence that external input is incorporated into quality improvement processes.
2. To meet Standard 6 – Cultural safety, The University of Queensland is required to submit a report to the ADC by **4 February 2023** demonstrating how external input from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples has been integrated at the School level to inform design and management of the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry programs to ensure cultural safety is integrated throughout the programs and learning outcomes.

The AT recommends that the following two monitoring requirements be imposed on the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry programs in Endodontics, Periodontics and Special Needs Dentistry:

1. The University of Queensland is requested to provide advice on the outcome of the current review of the relationship with MNHHS and a copy of the review report. These are to be submitted to the ADC by **15 September 2022**.
2. The University of Queensland is requested to provide an update on the roll-out of assessment of the cultural safety modules. In providing the update, the provider is requested to include details of the assessment requirements and rubrics for assessment. This information is requested to be provided to the ADC by **4 February 2023**.