



**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL  
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF  
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY  
BACHELOR OF ORAL HEALTH  
PROGRAM**

**April 2017**

# SUMMARY REPORT

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Program provider</b>	University of Sydney
<b>Program/qualification name</b>	Bachelor of Oral Health
<b>Program/qualification abbreviation</b>	BOH
<b>Program/qualification code</b>	BUORAHEA1000
<b>Head office address, including State</b>	2 Chalmers Street Surry Hills NSW 2006
<b>Campuses</b>	Sydney Dental Hospital, Westmead Centre for Oral Health
<b>Program length</b>	3 Years
<b>Registration division</b>	Dental Hygienist, Dental Therapist, Oral Health Therapist
<b>Registration specialty</b>	NA
<b>Qualification type</b>	Bachelor Degree
<b>Australian Qualifications Framework Level</b>	7
<b>Accreditation standards version</b>	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
<b>Date of site evaluation</b>	5 - 6 April 2017
<b>Date of ADC decision</b>	5 May 2017
<b>Type of accreditation</b>	Re-accreditation
<b>Accreditation start date</b>	1 January 2018
<b>Accreditation end date</b>	31 December 2022

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## Background

The Bachelor of Oral Health (BOH) program is a three-year undergraduate degree course designed to equip graduates with the theoretical knowledge and clinical skills required of an Oral Health Therapist and is located at level 7 of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). The main goal of the course is to produce competent oral health clinicians who provide individualised holistic patient treatment that is based on ethically sound, evidence-based decisions.

The BOH program commenced in 2005, with the first cohort of students graduating in December 2007. The program was accredited for two years in 2004 and extended by a third year in 2007, before graduation of that first cohort. The course was re-accredited by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in 2007 until 31 December of 2012, with conditions related to curriculum development. In March 2013, the ADC reaccredited the program, without conditions, until December 2017.

In recent years the number of students entering the program has grown from 35 (2013) to 49 (2016).

## Overview of the Evaluation

The Site Evaluation Team (SET) received the University of Sydney's 31-page submission against the Accreditation Standards, various appendices and subsequent information requested from the University following the SET teleconference of 14 February 2017. The SET undertook a site visit to the University on 5 and 6 April 2017. During the visit, meetings were held with:

- The Dean and Pro-Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry
- The Provost
- The Academic Co-ordinator and Head of Program
- The Lead of Oral Health Education and Promotion
- The Faculty General Manager (acting) and Finance Director
- A range of academic staff teaching into the program

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- Members of the Curriculum, Assessment and Evaluation Strategy Group
- Clinical educators
- A representative group of students from all years of the program
- A group of recent graduates of the program
- Director of Oral Health Service, Nepean and Blue Mountains Local Health District (NBMLHD)
- Year co-ordinators and co-ordinators of clinical teaching
- Clinical dental staff at Nepean Centre for Oral Health and Westmead Centre for Oral Health (WCOH)
- Representatives of Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists Association (ADOHTA) and Dental Hygienists Association of Australia (DHAA)

The SET also toured the dental facilities within Westmead and Nepean hospitals and met with a range of clinical staff.

During the site visit the SET was provided with further documentation including sample log books, copies of professional indemnity, medical and malpractice certificates, student placement agreements, meeting minutes and student rosters.

The findings in this report are based on the SET'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 program has developed considerably since the previous accreditation visit and provides a good balance between hygiene and therapy components, with students gaining clinical experience across a range of settings. A group of well qualified and highly committed staff support the program. In many clinical settings the students are present at the same time as students from the Faculty's Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) program but they do not currently work together. The proximity of the two student groups provides an excellent opportunity to develop a strong dental team approach.

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Facilities at Nepean Centre for Oral Health are excellent while those at WCOH are aging but adequate. Student numbers in the program have risen in recent years and while the facilities are appropriate to support the current numbers, sustained increases will put pressure on those facilities and the clinical chair numbers available to BOH students. Opportunities exist at Nepean Centre for Oral Health to expand the number of dental chairs available to BOH students.

The Faculty of Dentistry's academic governance structure provides for appropriate oversight of the program and the recently formed External Advisory Group provides for strong external input into the development of the program.

The curriculum is well balanced and clear program information is available to students via the Faculty website and the Learning Management System, including recordings of all lectures. Assessment is varied and appropriate with clearly documented rubrics available for students and staff.

## ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that the University of Sydney's Bachelor of Oral Health program is accredited until **31 December 2022**.