From: PRICE,Sherree [mail]
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2020 6:21 PM
To: Narelle Mills <narelle.mills@adc.org.au>
Cc: Tasbeeh Raza <tasbeeh.raza@adc.org.au>; CORNWELL,Andrea <Andrea.Cornwell@asqa.gov.au>
Subject: Draft accreditation standards for Dental Practitioner Programs [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear Ms Mills,

Thank you for inviting ASQA's feedback on the draft Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs. I am responding to you on behalf of Ms Saxon Rice, ASQA's Chief Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer.

ASQA is the national regulator for vocational education and training (VET). ASQA regulates against the National VET Regulator Act, VET Quality Framework, VET legislation, Standards and Training package
requirements. ASQA registers training providers and accredits VET courses to ensure that providers have the capacity to and are delivering training and assessment that meets the requirements set out in nationally endorsed training packages.

Nationally recognised training qualifications, including those used by industry regulators to determine an individual's eligibility for registration, form part of industry training packages. More information about training packages can be found at https://www.asqa.gov.au/about/vet-sector/training-packages.

If industry regulators require training providers or individuals studying specific qualifications to meet specific regulatory requirements, these requirements must be clearly stipulated in the relevant training package and qualifications in order for ASQA to enforce them. In particular, where an industry regulator requires a training provider to be accredited by a body other than ASQA, that requirement must be included in the training package.

The dental accreditation standards registration process requires individuals to complete certain higher education degrees or one of two Advanced Diplomas from the VET sector. We understand from https://www.adc.org.au/Program-Accreditation/Program-List that the relevant VET qualifications are:

- HLT65015 Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics
- 10286NAT Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene)

You may wish to review the training package and accredited course requirements for these qualifications to ensure that the draft Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs requirements can be met.

I draw your attention to the Dental IRC 2019 Industry Skills Forecast on the Skills IQ website found here. This report indicates that *HLT65015 Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics* will be reviewed during 2020-21. We advise you to contact Skills Service Organisation (SSO) SkillsIQ to discuss the inclusion of:

- a clear explanation of mandatory requirements for training providers to have their dental education program approved to enable graduates to apply for registration as a dental practitioner in Australia
- clear information for individuals wishing to obtain dental registration after successfully completing this qualification.

If the requirement for accreditation of providers extends to those delivering the accredited course *10286NAT Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene)*, you should also consider contacting the course owner, TAFE SA. Further information can be found at https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/10286NAT, including contact details for course owner.

I also note that the draft Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs reference the Higher Education Standards Framework, but do not include reference to the VET Quality Framework. I recommend that the Australian Dental Council considers whether information about the VET Quality Framework should be included in the revised standards. Further information about the VET Quality Framework can be found at https://www.asqa.gov.au/about/vet-sector.

If you have any questions, please contact me on telephone (07) 3223 1026, or by email at Sherree.Price@asqa.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

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