



Australian
Dental
Council

**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR OF DENTAL PROSTHETICS
PROGRAM**

August 2017

SUMMARY REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program provider	Griffith University
Program/qualification name	Bachelor of Dental Prosthetics
Program/qualification abbreviation	BDentPros
Program/qualification code	1580 and 1581
Head office address, including State	Gold Coast Campus, Queensland 4222
Campus	Griffith Health Centre, School of Dentistry and Oral Health, Level 7 Parklands Drive, Gold Coast Campus, Griffith University Queensland 4222
Program length	3 Years
Registration division	Dental Prosthetist
Registration specialty	N/A
Qualification type	Bachelor Degree
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	7
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
Date of site evaluation	9 - 10 August 2017
Date of ADC decision	18 August 2017
Type of accreditation	Initial Accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2018
Accreditation end date	31 December 2022

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Background

Griffith University advised the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in November 2016 that it planned to change the delivery of its currently accredited Master of Dental Technology in Prosthetics (MDentTech) program from 2018 with the introduction of the Bachelor of Dental Prosthetics (BDentPros) program.

Griffith University's MDentTech program is currently accredited until 31 December 2019 and is an 18 month Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level 9 program that requires students to complete the three year Bachelor of Oral Health in Dental Technology program as a pre-requisite to entry. Graduates of the MDentTech program are eligible to apply for registration with the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) as dental prosthetists.

Griffith University advised the ADC that the proposed BDentPros program contains all elements of the currently accredited MDentTech program without the research dissertation. The University advised the ADC that students enrolled in the BDentPros program will complete the first two years of the Bachelor of Oral Health in Dental Technology (BORalHDentTech), which is to be retitled as the Bachelor of Dental Technology (BDentTech) followed by all elements of the currently accredited MDentTech program, without the research requirements of an AQF level 9 program. Students will also be able to undertake a four-year double degree combining the full three years of the BDentTech program with an extra year to complete the requirements of the BDentPros program. Completing the BDentTech/BDentPros double degree would enable graduates to work as a dental prosthetist.

The change from the Masters level program to the Bachelor level program was considered at the ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee meeting held via teleconference on 13 December 2016 and it was determined that the BDentPros program constituted a new program and is therefore required to undergo a full review for the purpose of accreditation.

Overview of the Evaluation

The Site Evaluation Team (SET) received Griffith University's 60-page submission against the Accreditation Standards, supporting appendices and subsequent information requested from the University following the SET teleconference of 19 June 2017. The SET undertook a site visit to the Griffith Health Centre at the University's Gold Coast campus on 9 and 10 August 2017. During the visit, meetings were held with:

- Pro Vice Chancellor Health
- The Head of School

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- Deputy Head of School Learning & Teaching
- Program Directors for the BDentTech and BDentPros programs
- A range of academic staff responsible for teaching into the BDentTech and BDentPros programs
- Clinical dental prosthetic staff
- Administrative support staff
- Clinical dental staff
- Students enrolled in the MDentTech and BOralHDentTech programs
- Previous graduates of the MDentTech program
- Manager, Laboratory & Logistics Services Metro South Oral Health
- Representatives of the Australian Dental Prosthetist Association Queensland (ADPAQ) and Oral Health Professional Association (OHPA).

The SET also toured the facilities within the Griffith Health Centre.

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 evidence gathered by the SET indicates that the BDentPros program will be well supported by the School and Health Group as it moves from an AQF level 9 to an AQF level 7 program.

The BDentPros program is well structured and will provide excellent opportunities for students to develop the professional competencies expected of a newly qualified dental prosthetist. The facilities available to students are well equipped and modern. Information gathered by the SET indicates that the team based approach to patient care is working well and this provides an excellent opportunity for BDentPros students to work with dentistry students and specialists in periodontics and oral surgery.

The staffing profile is adequate and the plans in place for staff to student ratios in the clinical and laboratory environments are appropriate. A range of assessment tools will be used, including direct observation in the clinical environment. Information gathered by the SET indicates that the School is responsive to feedback and incorporates input from the profession into the program design and development.

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ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that Griffith University's Bachelor of Dental Prosthetics program is accredited from **1 January 2018** until **31 December 2022**.

As a monitoring requirement, a site visit is to be undertaken in three years from the course commencement to ensure the program continues to comply with Standard 3 – Program of Study and Standard 5 – Assessment and to confirm that the Bachelor of Dental Prosthetics program is being implemented as intended.