



**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL  
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF  
UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE  
DOCTOR OF CLINICAL DENTISTRY PROGRAMS IN SPECIAL NEEDS  
DENTISTRY**

**August 2017**

# SUMMARY REPORT

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Program provider</b>	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, SA 5005
<b>Campus</b>	North Terrace Campus
<b>Program length</b>	3 Years
<b>Registration division</b>	Specialist Dentist
<b>Registration specialty</b>	Special Needs Dentistry
<b>Qualification type</b>	Masters Degree
<b>Australian Qualifications Framework Level</b>	Level 9
<b>Accreditation standards version</b>	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
<b>Date of site evaluation</b>	29 August 2017
<b>Date of ADC decision</b>	10 November 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 University of Adelaide's suite of Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (DCLinDent) programs were last reviewed by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in October 2015. At the time the School of Dentistry had been through a period of significant change with the appointment of a new Dean and the renegotiation of the contract for the supply of patients through the South Australian Dental Service (SADS).

The Site Evaluation Team (SET) identified a number of shortfalls against the accreditation standards for the programs in Periodontics and Special Needs Dentistry, in particular with regard to staffing, the program curriculum and assessment. Both programs were accredited until 31 December 2016, subject to the satisfactory completion of conditions to address the shortfalls.

On 28 September 2016 the Dean wrote to the ADC with a report to address the conditions placed on the Special Needs Dentistry program. In a separate letter of the same date the Dean also advised that the School would not be seeking extension of the accreditation of the Periodontics program at that time in order to allow it to address a number of further issues.

At its meeting on 11 November 2016 the ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee determined that the conditions on the Special Needs Dentistry program had been satisfied and the accreditation of the program was extended until 31 December 2017.

On 8 February 2017 the School advised that it would be preparing an application for initial accreditation of a DCLinDent in Periodontics and that it would be submitted as part of the same application for accreditation of the DCLinDent in Special Needs Dentistry.

Subsequent to the submission, the Adelaide Dental School requested that the DCLinDent in Periodontics be withdrawn from the accreditation process.

## Overview of the Evaluation

The SET received the University of Adelaide's submissions against the Accreditation Standards, supporting appendices and subsequent information requested from the University following the SET teleconference of 14 July 2017. The SET undertook a site visit to the University on 29 August 2017. During the visit, meetings were held with:

- The Executive Dean Faculty Health and Medical Sciences, Associate Dean Research, Faculty Health and Medical Sciences and Associate Dean Learning & Teaching, Faculty Health & Medical Sciences.
- The Acting Deputy Dean and Head of School of Dentistry

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- The Postgraduate Co-ordinator, DCLinDent Co-ordinator and Research Development Manager, Faculty Health & Medical Sciences
- A range of administrative, financial, student services and clinical administration staff
- The DCLinDent Discipline Lead
- A range of academic staff responsible for teaching into the DCLinDent program
- The student currently in the Special Needs Dentistry program

The SET also toured the facilities within the new Adelaide Dental Hospital.

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 SET was impressed by the new facilities made available to undergraduate and post graduate dental program students through the new agreement with SADS. The University of Adelaide contributed significant funding to the development of the facilities in order to secure the contract with SADS for a 30 year term.

The DCLinDent in Special Needs Dentistry program has developed significantly since the last SET visit and is embracing novel and innovative ways to provide access to all DCLinDent in Special Needs Dentistry students across Australia to engage in learning activities together. The current teaching resources, although very qualified and experienced, is stretched and the program would benefit by providing additional academic support for the DCLinDent in Special Needs Dentistry lead. There is an opportunity for further interaction and support to be provided by various specialist dental discipline within the dental school to enhance students learning experiences.

## ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that the University of Adelaide's Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Special Needs Dentistry program is re-accredited until **31 December 2022**.