



**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF
UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY
PROGRAM**

October 2016

SUMMARY REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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| Program provider | University of Adelaide |
| Program/qualification name | Bachelor of Dental Surgery |
| Program/qualification abbreviation | BDS |
| Program/qualification code | |
| Head office address, including State | Faculty of Health Sciences, North Terrace Campus Adelaide SA 5005 |
| Campus | Adelaide Dental Hospital |
| Program length | 5 Years |
| Registration division | Dentist |
| 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 | 11 - 12 October 2016 |
| Date of ADC decision | 11 November 2016 |
| Type of accreditation | Re-Accreditation |
| Accreditation start date | 1 January 2017 |
| Accreditation end date | 31 December 2023 |

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Background

The University of Adelaide's Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) program is a long-standing program last reviewed by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in 2009. Following that review the ADC accredited the program until 31 December 2016 without conditions.

During the most recent period of accreditation a number of significant developments have occurred that impact on the program. In late 2014 the university signed a 30 year 'dental partnership' agreement with South Australia Health which has provided both greater certainty about the relationship with South Australian Dental Service (SADS) and the future patient pool available to students.

The university has invested in a new Adelaide Dental Hospital which is due to be completed in 2017. Funding has also been committed to a new Riverland Oral Health Centre which will provide for further student rural clinical experience.

In addition to the main dental facilities located at the North Terrace Campus students also have access to an \$8 million dental simulation clinic on campus which opened in 2013 as well as a rural dental training facility in Whyalla which opened in 2011.

In terms of organisation the School of Dentistry transitioned to a new leadership structure in 2015.

Overview of the Evaluation

The Site Evaluation Team (SET) received the University of Adelaide's 47-page submission against the Accreditation Standards, various appendices and subsequent information requested from the University following the SET teleconference of 23 August 2016. The SET undertook a site visit to the University on 11 and 12 October 2016. During the visit, meetings were held with:

- The Executive Dean Faculty of Health Medical Sciences
- The Dean/Head of School of Dentistry
- The program co-ordinator and year co-ordinators for the program
- The School Programs Board
- School administrative and support staff
- A range of academic staff responsible for teaching into the program

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- Clinical demonstrators and specialists teaching into the program
- Clinical dental staff and dental laboratory staff
- A representative of the Australian Dental Association SA Branch (ADA)
- The Acting Director Adelaide Dental Hospital
- Outplacement clinic supervisors
- A representative group of students from the program
- A group of recent graduates from the program

The SET also toured the facilities within the University of Adelaide School of Dentistry, an outplacement clinic at Gillies Plains and met with a range of clinical staff.

During the site visit the SET was provided with further documentation including sample log books and examination papers.

Key Findings

The School is going through a period of significant change with the recently signed agreement with SADS and imminent move to the new Adelaide Dental Hospital. A recent Professional Services Reform (PSR) has impacted on professional staff support available to the School.

The School is well served by an experienced and very committed staff group who appear to work well with each other and have good working relationships with the students. The School's academic governance structure is clear and robust and utilises a good range of stakeholders to inform program review and development.

The curriculum is strong with a particular emphasis on case-based learning in all years through 'Integrated Learning Activities'. Clinical experience is gained entirely in public clinics which, while providing access to a large number of patients, potentially limits the range of patient types available to students. The new Adelaide Dental Hospital is scheduled to open in mid to late 2017 and will have less chairs available to undergraduate students which will result in more clinical experience being gained at outplacement clinics.

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The Faculty-led PSR, which was completed in May 2016, has resulted in many School professional staff roles being centralised. At the time of the SET visit the impact of this change was unclear, but in conjunction with the move to the new Adelaide Dental Hospital this has the potential to create challenges for student and supervisor rostering.

Students have access to a good range of support services at School, Faculty and university level. The new Adelaide Dental Hospital will contain a Student Hub to provide onsite access to some support services.

Assessment in the program is strong and clearly linked to learning activities and program learning outcomes.

ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that the University of Adelaide's Bachelor of Dental Surgery program is accredited until **31 December 2023**.

The ADC has determined that as a monitoring requirement:

- 1) a visit be undertaken to review the new Adelaide Dental Hospital to confirm that its clinical and other facilities are appropriate to allow the program to meet its objectives. The visit is to take place no later than **31 December 2017**.
- 2) the School of Dentistry provides an update in its 2017, 2018 and 2019 ADC Annual Reports on developments in the following areas:
 - a. The impact of the agreement with SADS on involvement of the School in tutor allocation following credentialing by SADS
 - b. Range of patients available to students in the program, specifically those requiring removable prosthodontics, endodontics, fixed prosthodontics and opportunities for complex treatment planning
 - c. The impact of the Professional Services Reform on timetabling and management of student outplacements and tutors
 - d. The impact of the university's new budget model on the number of casual staff available to support the program.