

01 November 2024

Ms Deborah Frew
Executive Consultant
Blue Miller Group

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Dear Deborah

Thank you for the discussion earlier this week and your subsequent email follow up. As requested, please find below the answers to your questions:

1. Could you provide us a description of your role in relation to accreditation of education programs for oral surgery and oral and maxillofacial surgery under the NRAS, including a brief description of the process used to undertake accreditation?

The Australian Dental Council (ADC) is the independent accreditation authority for the Australian dental professions. We work to protect the health and safety of the public by ensuring dental practitioners meet the high standards required of the dental professions in Australia.

The ADC is responsible for accrediting all dental education and training programs in Australia that lead to registration as a dental practitioner in an area of practice that is recognised by the Dental Board of Australia (DBA), including oral surgery and maxillofacial surgery.

All accredited programs are assessed against the ADC/Dental Council (New Zealand) accreditation standards for dental practitioner programs (the Standards).

As part of the accreditation process, the Provider is required to demonstrate that the learning outcomes and assessments are mapped to the relevant professional competencies.

Entry level competencies for dental specialists have been developed by the DBA in collaboration with the Dental Council (New Zealand). There are different competency documents for oral surgery and oral and maxillo-facial surgery – [see the DBA website for a copy of the competency documents.](#)

Specialist programs are accredited for a maximum of five years. The [ADC guidelines for the review of specialist dental practitioner programs](#) (specialist guidelines) outline the process for accreditation.

The [monitoring framework](#) outlines the monitoring activities the ADC undertakes to ensure accredited programs continue to meet the Accreditation Standards throughout the period of accreditation

2. Could you provide us with the ADC accredited courses for both oral surgery and oral and maxillofacial surgery from the commencement of the NRAS to the present?

Oral Surgery

The University of Sydney's Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Oral Surgery) program was first accredited by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in 2016, with the program accredited to five years, subject to a monitoring requirement that a visit be undertaken when the first cohort of students entered the final year of the program.

The monitoring review was undertaken by the ADC in 2018, with the accreditation of the program continued until 31 December 2021 with no further monitoring or conditions imposed.

Graduates of the DClinDent (Oral Surgery) program are eligible to apply for registration with the DBA as specialists in oral surgery. The program is currently accredited until 31 December 2026. The latest program report can be found [here](#).

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

The Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons' (RACDS') training program leading to Fellowship of the College in the specialist dental practice area of oral and maxillofacial surgery (FRACDS(OMS)), consists of four years of training following a qualification in dentistry and medicine.

The program in OMS is based on the international definition for the scope of oral and maxillofacial surgery practice.

The FRACDS(OMS) was initially assessed through a joint dental and medical accreditation process in 2006. This assessment led to joint agreement by the Australian Medical Council (AMC), Medical Council New Zealand (MC(NZ)), Dental Council New Zealand (DC(NZ)) and the Australian Dental Council (ADC) to grant the FRACDS(OMS) program three years' accreditation.

The program was then reaccredited via a joint medical and dental accreditation process in 2009, 2012 and 2017. In 2022, the program was re-accredited via a joint medical and Australian accreditation process, the Dental Council New Zealand conducted a separate process.

The program is currently accredited until 31 December 2027. The latest program report can be found [here](#).

3. Does the ADC have any information about the comparability of the Australian education programs for oral surgery and oral and maxillofacial surgery to those of the UK, Ireland and Aotearoa NZ?

The oral surgery and oral and maxillofacial surgery dental programs in Australia and New Zealand are comparable, as the Australian Dental Council (ADC) and the Dental Council (New Zealand) jointly developed the current accreditation standards. All programs are assessed against these standards.

Additionally, the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) and the Dental Council (New Zealand) collaboratively developed the specialist competencies for all dental specialists.

I am unaware of any mapping exercise of Australian education programs for oral surgery and oral and maxillofacial surgery to those of the UK, Ireland. The DBA is responsible for the qualification equivalence pathway for practitioners from these jurisdictions. An applicant's qualifications are assessed against specific criteria to determine whether they are substantially equivalent to a program of study approved by the Board.

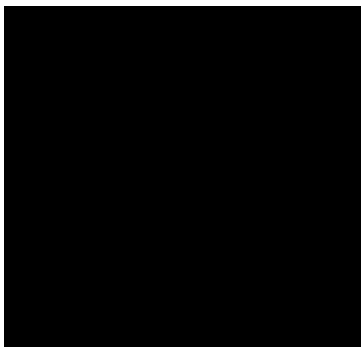
For more information, please refer to the DBA website [here](#).

4. Does the ADC have any other comments or submissions on the Terms of Reference?

No.

Please let me know if you have any further queries.

Kind regards



Jonathon Kruger

CEO