



22 May 2018

## **Australian Medical Council Accreditation Update: May 2018**

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) is the national accreditation body for the medical profession. In an accreditation assessment the AMC assesses the medical program against the *Standards for Assessment and Accreditation of Specialist Medical Programs and Professional Development Programs by the Australian Medical Council*. It sets up an expert accreditation team, which reviews documentation provided by the education provider, and completes a program of site visits and meetings.

The AMC recently completed the reaccreditation assessment of the Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons' Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery training program (FRACDS(OMS)).

Oral and maxillofacial surgery is both a dental and medical specialty. It is the part of surgery which deals with the diagnosis, surgical and adjunctive treatment of diseases, injuries and defects of the human jaws and associated structures.

The College's oral and maxillofacial surgery training program comprises of four years of training in accredited training sites. Formal entry into the training program follows completion of both medical and dental qualifications, intern year and surgery in the general resident year and both medical and dental registration to practise in Australia or New Zealand. Trainees undertake supervised on-the-job training which is complemented by modules and courses, and ongoing assessment and feedback.

As oral and maxillofacial surgery is both a dental and a medical specialty, there has been a history of joint accreditation assessments of the training program by the four authorities responsible for accreditation in Australia and New Zealand, the AMC, the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ), the Australian Dental Council (ADC), the Dental Council of New Zealand (DC(NZ)).

In 2017, the four accreditation authorities again completed a joint reaccreditation assessment of the oral and maxillofacial training program. A joint assessment team was established for the assessment, which prepared a joint accreditation report on its findings. While this was a joint assessment, each accreditation authority made its own decision recognising their jurisdictional and profession-specific responsibilities.

On the basis of this assessment, each accreditation authority agreed that they are reasonably satisfied that the oral and maxillofacial surgery training program of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons leading to FRACDS(OMS) meets the accreditation standards.

The accreditation report is available on the [AMC Website](#). The key findings in the report include:

- the importance of reviewing the College's assessment strategy to ensure robust, fair and consistent assessment processes across all examination activities

- the need to strengthen the College relationships with key external stakeholders, including the jurisdictional health departments, Indigenous health organisations, related professions, consumers and the community
- the need for the College to develop an overarching framework for monitoring and evaluation, which includes all training and educational processes as well as program and graduate outcomes
- the importance of developing effective mechanisms for trainees to raise issues and safely resolve disputes during training
- the need for the College to review the structure, quality assurance and audit processes in relation to the provision of continuing professional development
- the requirement to review the overseas trained oral and maxillofacial surgery specialist processes to ensure alignment with the revised Medical Board of Australia and the Medical Council of New Zealand guidelines.

The joint report also details the program's notable successes and strengths, including the ongoing commitment and support of the doctors who contribute to College training as supervisors. The extensive curriculum review undertaken with the engagement of external experts resulted in a curriculum that is well organised and fit for purpose. The College is commended on the clear definition of the College's educational purpose, program outcomes and expected competencies.

The College is also commended for developing a robust and dedicated network of Directors of Training and Regional Surgical Committees across its networked training sites. The regional surgical committees ensure appropriate clinical exposure for trainees in the program.

To ensure alignment of accreditation periods between the medical and dental accreditation processes, the AMC Directors agreed to grant accreditation to the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons' education and training programs in the field of specialty practice of oral and maxillofacial surgery for five years until 31 March 2023. The accreditation decision is subject to satisfying monitoring requirements including satisfactory progress reports and meeting the conditions imposed.

The AMC presented the accreditation decision noted above to the Medical Board of Australia for decision on the approval of the programs of study for registration purposes. The Medical Board of Australia details its decisions about accredited programs of study in communiqués published on the [Board's website](#) following each meeting.

#### CONTACT:

AMC – Jane Porter – 0488 400 446