27 April 2016

The Directors of the Australian Medical Council confirm accreditation of the Doctor of Medicine (MD) program of the University of Western Australia, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences’ until 31 March 2019.

The Australian Medical Council is the national accreditation body for the medical profession. It has recently completed a follow-up assessment of the University of Western Australia, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences’ medical program.

The University of Western Australia was established in 1911 as Western Australia’s first University. The medical program was first granted accreditation in 1990 as a direct entry Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS). This program is being phased out, as the University introduces a graduate entry Doctor of Medicine (MD) program.

In 2013, the AMC assessed the Faculty's plans for a major change to its medical program to a four-year graduate entry program, including the restructure of the curriculum to four phases and twenty-four program graduate outcomes and the inclusion of the Scholarly Active program to meet the research requirement of a Level 9 course.

The AMC found the MD program met the accreditation standards and granted accreditation until 31 December 2018, subject to conditions, including a follow-up assessment in 2015 to review the implementation of the first two years of the program, and detailed plans for Years 4 and 5.

In 2015 the follow-up accreditation team considered written material from the Faculty and the Western Australian Medical Students' Society, before visiting the Faculty and associated clinical teaching sites in August 2015. The team met University representatives and Faculty staff, students and clinicians, and prepared its report against the accreditation standards.

The AMC accreditation report finds that the Faculty has developed and implemented the curriculum around a strong thematic core, and that the Faculty is well engaged with the student body. The Faculty has strong relationships with the health sector in rural environments, and offers impressive facilities for rural-based students at the clinical schools in Bunbury and Busselton. The Faculty is commended on its longitudinal mentoring program, which assigns each medical student a dedicated clinical mentor.

The AMC requires that education providers submit regular progress reports on their accredited medical programs, addressing the accreditation standards. The School will also be asked to report on areas where conditions have been set on the accreditation. Once the first cohort has completed the MD program, the Faculty will provide evidence of evaluation of the clinical years of the program and evidence that the medical program achieves comparable outcomes through comparable educational experiences and equivalent methods of assessment across all instructional sites within a given discipline.

On the basis of the team’s report, the AMC Directors at their 14 December 2015 meeting agreed that the Doctor of Medicine programs of the University of Western Australia, Faculty
of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences continue to meet the approved accreditation standards. Accreditation of the MD program is granted until 31 March 2019, subject to conditions, as outlined in the 2015 executive summary (available here).

The AMC will continue to monitor the Faculty’s progress through reports on conditions and progress reports.

The AMC presents accreditation decisions and reports to the Medical Board of Australia to make a 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 its website following each meeting.

Contact:
Professor David Ellwood
Chair, AMC Medical School Accreditation Committee
0428 372 370