



26 October 2011

AMC Accreditation Update: October 2011

The Australian Medical Council has recently completed a re-accreditation assessment of the MBBS Program of the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Adelaide.

The Faculty of Health Sciences MBBS Program is a well-established, six-year integrated school leaver medical program. The Program was first assessed by the AMC in 1991. Four schools in the Faculty of Health Sciences teach into the MBBS Program: Medical Sciences, Medicine, Paediatrics and Reproductive Health, and Population Health and Clinical Practice. The Dean and Director of the MBBS Program reports to the Executive Dean of the Faculty. The Program is housed in the School of Medicine Building at the University. Students complete their clinical experience in a number of health services including the Royal Adelaide Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Lyell McEwin Health Services, Modbury Hospital, the Spencer Gulf Rural Clinical School, and general practices.

The principal purpose of the 2011 assessment was to consider whether the University of Adelaide, Faculty of Health Sciences MBBS Program met the [AMC medical school accreditation standards](#) and would continue to do so for the next six years, until 2017, which is the maximum period possible for a reaccreditation.

An AMC Assessment Team assessed the MBBS Program by reviewing the Program's reaccreditation submission and visiting the University and clinical sites in June 2011, meeting with University representatives and Faculty staff, students and clinicians. The Team prepared an assessment report against the accreditation standards, which was considered by the Medical School Accreditation Committee, which made recommendations to the AMC Directors.

The AMC Directors resolved that the University of Adelaide Faculty of Health Sciences MBBS Program be granted re-accreditation with conditions for three years, until 31 December 2014.

The Directors resolved that the Faculty substantially met the accreditation standards. In accordance with the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009, Part 6, s48(1b)*, the AMC has imposed conditions on the approval to ensure that the Program meets the standards in a reasonable time. This accreditation is subject to satisfactory progress reports and a follow-up AMC assessment to determine continued accreditation beyond three years.

The AMC Directors considered that the Faculty is well-placed to complete the work required to meet the conditions and standards. The 2011 report included commendations to the Faculty on the commitment of its academic staff and the staff of the Medicine Learning and Teaching Unit. The Faculty's strong research record, excellent clinician involvement in teaching, and the student experience at the Rural Clinical School were highlighted by the

Assessment Team as strengths of the Program. Additionally, the report identified a clear Program mission and graduate outcomes, good student representation and importantly, the Team found that the Program prepared students well for their early postgraduate careers.

Along with these strengths, the accreditation report also cited areas where change was necessary and conditions were placed on the Program to ensure that standards would be met in reasonable time. These areas include revision of the Program's governance structure to ensure autonomy and adequate resource allocation, review and renewal of the curriculum, assessment review and improvement, and implementation of an ongoing monitoring and evaluation framework. The report also stated that IT resourcing and student facilities should be improved to better meet student needs.

Professor David Ellwood, Chair of the Medical School Accreditation Committee, commented "The University of Adelaide Faculty of Health Sciences MBBS Program is well placed to respond to the challenges outlined in their accreditation report. The AMC has confidence in the capacity and commitment of the Faculty and University to meet the conditions while continuing to deliver an accredited medical program which produces very competent medical graduates".

Professor Justin Beilby, Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences at The University of Adelaide stated that they believe the test of any medical program is the quality of the graduates: "Our graduates are seen as second to none by employers. The Faculty believe it is exceptionally well-positioned to build on the current strengths of our MBBS Program and harness new opportunities for renewal and collaboration going forward".

The Executive Summary of the AMC Accreditation Report is available [here](#). The AMC will continue to monitor the progress of the Faculty through its annual reporting process and in the follow-up assessment visit.

The Australian Medical Council has recently reviewed comprehensive reports from three medical programs offered in Australia.

Medical schools submit a comprehensive report in the year before their accreditation will expire. In the comprehensive report for extension of accreditation, the school is expected to provide evidence that it continues to meet the accreditation standards, and that it has maintained its standard of education and of resources. The report also provides an appraisal of developments since the last accreditation assessment, and information on developments planned leading up to the next AMC reaccreditation.

If the Medical School Accreditation Committee decides that the medical school and its program of study are likely to continue to satisfy the accreditation standards, it may recommend that the AMC Directors extend the medical school's accreditation. The period of extension possible is usually a period of three to four years, taking the school to the full period of accreditation which the AMC will grant between assessment visits, which is 10 years.

In August 2011 the AMC Directors:

Found that the medical program of the **University of Tasmania School of Medicine** meets the approved accreditation standards. The School is granted an extension of accreditation until 31 December 2016. The current 5 year program was first accredited by the AMC in

2005, subject to a follow-up assessment in 2007. The 2007 follow-up assessment confirmed the 2005 accreditation.

Found that the medical program of the **University of Wollongong Graduate School of Medicine** meets the approved accreditation standards. The four-year medical program of the Graduate School is granted an extension of accreditation until 31 December 2016. The program was first accredited by the AMC in 2006. Accreditation was confirmed after a follow-up assessment in 2008, subject to satisfactory progress reports.

Confirmed that the MBBS Program of the **University of Melbourne, Melbourne Medical School** meets the approved accreditation standards. The program has accreditation until 31 December 2013. The MBBS Program took its last student intake in 2009 and has been replaced by the four-year graduate entry Melbourne MD course which took its first students in 2011.

The AMC presents accreditation decisions and reports noted above 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.

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