

Executive Summary 2009

Monash University Gippsland Medical School

Monash University offers a five-year undergraduate medical course which was first accredited by the Australian Medical Council (AMC) in 2001 and introduced in 2002. The University subsequently made two major changes to the five-year course, expanding the delivery settings and format. Because the Monash program is based on one curriculum and one assessment regime and Monash has chosen to grant one degree award – Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery Monash University – to graduates of the Monash course at all locations, the AMC has re-accredited the entire Monash course as each major change has been introduced: in 2006 when it approved introduction of the Monash Malaysia program and again in 2007 when it accredited the new graduate entry program at the Monash Gippsland (Churchill) campus.

The Monash medical program has accreditation until December 2013, subject to a number of conditions which included, in the case of Monash Gippsland, reports to the Committee and a follow-up visit before June 2009 to review implementation of the first year of the course and the detailed plans for subsequent years. An Australian Medical Council assessment team visited the Monash University Gippsland Medical School from 17 to 20 August 2009 to confirm successful implementation of Year A of the four-year graduate entry MBBS program and to review the detailed plans for Years B to D of the program.

The Team visited the Monash University Gippsland Campus and met with staff, clinicians, community representatives and students. The Team also visited a number of the clinical teaching sites, and appreciated the fact that many people took time out of their busy schedules to update the Team about how the Gippsland graduate program is being developed and implemented. The Team identified areas of strength and areas that would require further development.

Areas of strength:

- i. contribution of the Gippsland program to the strong reputation of the Monash University MBBS;
- ii. refinement of the Faculty committee structure to allow the delivery of the curriculum across three schools simultaneously;
- iii. strong leadership, expertise, communication and enthusiasm amongst staff;
- iv. support for the continuation of the Gippsland Medical School program by both the faculty and the vice-chancellor, even though it runs on a deficit budget;
- v. strong and growing links between the university and the various health services in the region;
- vi. high calibre and committed staff of the Gippsland Medical School, clinical schools and health services;
- vii. development of research activities in a short time;
- viii. strong commitment to staff development across multiple sites;
- ix. excellent rural clinical exposure;
- x. successful compression of Years 1 and 2 of the MBBS into a single Year A;
- xi. understanding of the standardisation and equivalence issues involved in education over distributed sites;

- xii. evidence of innovations at the Gippsland Medical School being applied across the MBBS;
- xiii. use of clinical nurse educators in the program;
- xiv. use of a wide range of contemporary evidence-based teaching and learning methods;
- xv. a governance structure enabling equivalence of assessment across the three MBBS programs, and demonstrated equivalence in the assessment results to date;
- xvi. evaluation within the MBBS program;
- xvii. plans for application of the Gippsland Medical School evaluation framework across year 4/c of the MBBS;
- xviii. rapid changes ensuing from student feedback;
- xix. the support the Gippsland Medical School provides for students across all sites;
- xx. the degree of student involvement in program development;
- xxi. educational facilities at the Churchill campus, hospitals, and at many general practice sites;
- xxii. plans for educational facilities at Frankston and Sale hospitals;
- xxiii. diverse range of quality clinical attachments;
- xxiv. each student having the use of a laptop;
- xxv. leadership of Monash in the state-wide approaches to the establishment and distribution of clinical placements.

Areas that require consideration and development:

- i. clarification of the Gippsland Medical School mission with respect to expanding the outer metropolitan work force as well as the regional and rural work force;
- ii. an MBBS-wide review of Indigenous health teaching with respect to the implementation of the CDAMS Indigenous health framework;
- iii. consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about their involvement in program design and delivery;
- iv. requirement for additional intern places in the region;
- v. use of clinical nurse educators at Frankston and Warragul hospitals;
- vi. balance between formal teaching activities and clinical experiences in Year B at Frankston;
- vii. plans to meet challenges in the recruitment of students from the three target populations: Gippsland, Indigenous and rural;
- viii. Internet access at some clinical sites;
- ix. the need to realise government plans to fund infrastructure at general practices in both outer metropolitan and rural areas;
- x. teacher training for GPs in alignment with GP registrar training;
- xi. professional development of teachers regarding specific learning needs of the Gippsland Medical School student cohorts.

Recommendations 2009

Accreditation of major changes to established courses

The AMC's *Assessment and Accreditation of Medical Schools: Standards and Procedures* provide the following options for the accreditation of major changes to established courses:

- (i) Accreditation for a period up to two years after the full course has been implemented, subject to conditions being addressed within a specific period of time and depending on satisfactory annual reports. In the year before the accreditation ends, the medical school will be required to submit a comprehensive progress report. Subject to a satisfactory report, the AMC may grant a further period of accreditation, up to a maximum of four years, before a new accreditation assessment.
- (ii) Accreditation of the new course may be refused where the school has not satisfied the AMC that the complete medical course can be implemented and delivered at a level consistent with AMC Accreditation Standards. The AMC will advise the school on the deficiencies to be addressed before it will reconsider accreditation.

Recommendations

The Medical School Accreditation Committee recommends that the AMC Directors confirm accreditation of the Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University until 31 December 2013, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The Faculty's submission of periodic reports to the Medical School Accreditation Committee, addressing satisfactorily the areas for improvement set out in the AMC Accreditation Reports, *Accreditation of Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences Monash University 2004*; *Accreditation of the Monash Malaysia Medical School (now Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah School), Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University 2008* and *Accreditation of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences Monash University Major Course Change Gippsland Medical School 2009*;
- (ii) The following key issues being addressed satisfactorily in the 2010 report:
 - (a) the outcomes and assessment of Year 5 of the medical program in Malaysia and in particular the performance and experience of the students in those parts of the program conducted in Australia (by April 2010)
 - (a) an MBBS-wide review of Indigenous health teaching with respect to the implementation of the Medical Deans Indigenous health curriculum framework (refer Gippsland 2009 report).