



MEDIA RELEASE
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Adelaide University medical school accredited until July 2007

The Australian Medical Council has accredited the medical course of the Adelaide University Medical School for six years, the maximum period available to an established medical school. The AMC is the national standards body responsible for accreditation of medical schools in Australia and New Zealand. The AMC accredits the medical schools to ensure that each maintains an acceptable standard of education. Graduates of AMC-accredited medical schools can be registered as medical practitioners in any Australian State or Territory.

"The School is now reaping the benefits of more than a decade of planning to align its medical course with modern developments in medical education", commented Professor Laurie Geffen, the Chair of the AMC accreditation team.

The AMC team commented favourably on a number of features of the medical School's new medical course, Curriculum 2000, including the comprehensive concept database developed by the staff which underpins the process of curriculum development; the integration of curriculum material across disciplines and years; the shift to community based teaching; the early introduction of clinical skills training and the popular "Beyond Me" communications skills program in years 1-3. The team also congratulated the School on its explicit and enlightened assessment policy and its student support arrangements, including special support for Indigenous students. It also commends the School's new admissions process; this takes account of performance in the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admissions Test (which assesses qualities such as logical reasoning, problem-solving and critical thinking), and in a structured oral assessment as well as the student's matriculation score.

Added strengths of the Faculty come from the committed clinical years coordinators in each of the hospitals and from the clinical staff of the teaching hospitals, who are enthusiastic and supportive despite increasing pressures to

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increase non-teaching outputs. The team visited clinical teaching sites, including the hospitals and noted that the facilities were of a high standard. The team was pleased by the interest of the Department of Human Services (DHS) senior staff in the establishment of a state-wide forum, at which DHS investments in teaching and research could be discussed.

Medical students in the new course reported that they are enjoying the problem based learning approach and appreciate the coordination of the resource sessions with the cases. These resource sessions are also being made available to students in later years, at their request. Students were also very positive about their clinical teaching, and especially appreciated the community based placements in Year 6, which have been developed for Curriculum 2000.

The team commended the School on developing rural options for students in a wide variety of locations, including the involvement of the SA Centre for Rural and Remote Health, which it visited in Whyalla. The School plans to extend the rural training aspects of the course and, through a Commonwealth grant, has recently established a Rural Clinical School in Whyalla.

Curriculum 2000 has so far been introduced only into years 1 and 2, and the School still has a considerable amount of developmental work ahead. The AMC accepted that all years of the new curriculum could be successfully implemented, but some members of the team will revisit the School in the second half of 2002 to follow through on the progress being made in Curriculum 2000.

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