
 Australian Dental Council

ADC Assessment Processes for Overseas Trained Dentists

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ACODS Workforce Conference
4 June 2009

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What is the ADC?

- ❖ Formed in 1993 – as an independent corporate body
- ❖ Membership comprises – Dental Boards, ACODS, ADA, RACDS, DHAA, ADOHTA (nominees are Directors of the company)
- ❖ Purpose – to accredit the courses in Australian University Dental Schools on behalf of Dental Boards
- ❖ In 1996, the assessment of overseas trained dentists for registration purposes was transferred to the ADC by the Australian Government
- ❖ Australian Government has authorised the ADC as the *assessing authority* for OTDs for visas under the General Skilled Migration program.

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Assessment Pathways for Overseas Trained Dentists

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    graph TD
      A[Assess Basic Dental Qualifications & Registration] --> B[Recognised]
      A --> C[Not Recognised]
      B --> D[Eligible for Registration]
      C --> E[Occupational English Test]
      E --> F[Preliminary Examination]
      F --> G[Clinical Examination]
      G --> D
  
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Public Sector Dental Workforce Scheme Candidates

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    graph TD
      A[Qualification Eligible for PSDWS (assessed by employer)] --> B[Specific Limited Registration (granted by Dental Board)]
      B --> C[Occupational English Test]
      C --> D[Exempt Preliminary Examination]
      D --> E[Clinical Examination]
      E --> F[Eligible for Full Registration]
  
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Preliminary Examination

- ❖ Acts as a screening exam
- ❖ Tests knowledge of Dentistry and of clinical and technical procedures relevant to dental practice in Australia
- ❖ Two MCQ papers (80 questions per paper)
- ❖ One SAQ paper (3 questions on clinical scenarios/practice)
- ❖ Held twice yearly (in March and September), in up to 27 locations across Australia and overseas
- ❖ Unlimited attempts
- ❖ Valid for 3 years as pre-requisite for the Clinical Exam

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Clinical Examination

- ❖ Conducted over a six or seven day period
- ❖ Set to the standard expected of a recent graduate from an Australian Dental School
- ❖ Uses various dental teaching hospitals and clinics with pre-clinical facilities and access to suitable patients
- ❖ Examiners are dental academics and experienced dentists, most involved in clinical teaching
- ❖ Examining team includes balance of general dental practitioners and appropriate dental specialists

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Clinical Examination

- ❖ Clinical disciplines covered are –
 - Clinical Dentistry 1 (CD1)
 - Operative Dentistry including Endodontics
 - Fixed Prosthodontics
 - Paediatric Dentistry
 - Clinical Dentistry 2 (CD2)
 - Periodontics
 - Removable Prosthodontics
 - Treatment planning
 - Clinical Dentistry 3 (CD3)
 - Oral Surgery
 - Oral Diagnosis
 - Oral Radiology and Radiography
 - Infection Control
- ❖ Unlimited attempts (but each attempt requires valid Prelim Exam pass)
- ❖ Supplementary exam if pass in 2 of the 3 sections
- ❖ Two exam series per year (currently 8-9 exam sessions per series)
- ❖ Priority system for allocation of places in examination sessions

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ADC Assessments & Examinations 2000-2008

YEAR	ASSESSMENTS	PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2 exams per year		FINAL EXAMINATION		
	Number	Encounters	Completions	Encounters	Completions	No. Exams
2000	221	105	34	69	51	2
2001	259	149	43	51	52	2
2002	264	200	61	50	37	2
2003	385	275	104	74	48	2
2004	429	387	148	157	61	4
2005	615	466	216	234	110	6
2006	750	585	304	299	158	10
2007	740	688	380	437	156	13
2008	786	587	257	496	171	16

NB 'Completions' rate does NOT equal 'pass rate'

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ADC Assessments & Examinations 2000-2008

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Source of ADC Candidates

- 120 Countries
- 400+ Dental Schools

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ADC Pathway Contribution to Dental Workforce

- ❖ Since 2000 (to 2008) via the ADC assessment pathway –
 - 844 OTDs became eligible for registration in Australia
 - includes 39 OTDs via the PSDWS (2007-08)
 - ? other employer-sponsored OTDs
- ❖ How many have registered and are practising in the Australian dental workforce? [DSRU assume 100pa in their projections]
- ❖ Where are they practising?
- ❖ Nature of practice and contribution to supply of 'dental visits'?
- ❖ How many international graduates (~350 per year from Australian Dental Schools) remain in Australia to practise?
- ❖ Will current national workforce initiatives increase the throughput of OTDs via the ADC pathway (or alternative)?

04 June 2009 11