27 April 2017

Professor Michael Woods
National Registration and Accreditation Scheme
Email: admin@asreview.org.au

Dear Professor Woods,

RE: Independent Review of Accreditation Systems within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) for health professions

The Australian Dental Prosthetists Association Limited (ADPA) is the peak industry association representing registered dental prosthetists in Australia.

We take this opportunity to welcome the review of the NRAS and provide our support of the Australian Dental Council’s (ADC) submission.

As an association, we are particularly focused on the outcomes, employability and end product of a dental qualification. Accredited programs should be achievable, relevant, flexible and affordable to students. Education providers should have standards that are outcome based, however are provided with the flexibility and autonomy to implement these standards as they see fit. Consistency in outcome-based objectives across educational institutions is paramount, however the process of getting there can differentiate.

The current ADC structure provides an avenue for the ADPA to work closely with accredited institutions as well as other professional associations to review current trends, issues and advances within the profession. We believe the ADC provide a positive framework to working collaboratively across existing dental professions achieving cross professional standards and competencies which complement the current structured professional relationship within the dental team.

We fully support the incorporation of decisions by TEQSA/ASQA assessments and accreditations as part of accreditation authority reviews. The new Bachelor of Dental Prosthetics program provided by TAFE Queensland is an example of where the ADC has worked with TEQSA to combine and streamline accreditation processes. The feedback provided through TAFE Queensland staff and students has been overwhelmingly positive in respect to current accreditation processes.

In respect to the timeliness and responsiveness of processes to ensure education programs are delivering graduates with the knowledge, clinical skills and professional attributes required of the current and future workforce, we believe accreditation authorities should be involved, or have the avenue to review discussions regarding future workforce needs. With technological changes, increases in offshore manufacturing and an aging workforce it is essential accreditation authorities are aware of the trends, issues and opportunities within the health professions and the future direction of government programs/plans. National health plans and workforce needs cannot be met without consultation with the relevant accreditation authorities.
We believe the ADC’s submission provides insight into the fact that the current system is not broken. There is avenue to improve and streamline processes, however there is also benefits provided through the current framework. We fully support the ADC’s submission and look forward to reviewing the final report.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this further.

Your sincerely

Jeremy Irvine MAICD
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Dental Prosthetists Association Ltd