



Optometry Council of
Australia and New Zealand

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Education Provider:	Flinders University
Program:	Bachelor of Medical Science (Vision Science) & Master of Optometry Program
Date:	August 2017
Outcome:	Accredited with conditions until 31 December 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) was established in 1996. Its function includes assessment, for the purposes of accreditation, programs designed to produce graduates suitable for registration as optometrists in Australia or New Zealand.

THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS

The overall aim of the accreditation process is to evaluate the extent to which the program complies with the 10 OCANZ Standards set out in *Accreditation Manual for Optometry Programs in Australia and New Zealand Part 2 –Standards April 2006*. The assessment follows the process and procedures described in the OCANZ publication *Accreditation Manual for Optometry Programs in Australia and New Zealand Part 1- Processes and Procedures August 2012* (www.ocanz.org).

OCANZ may grant accreditation if it is satisfied that a program of study, and the education provider that provides it, meets an approved accreditation standard. OCANZ may also grant accreditation with conditions on the program's approval, if it is satisfied the program will meet the standard within a reasonable time. OCANZ's recommendations inform registration decisions made under national law in Australia and New Zealand.

BACKGROUND

In 2011, the OCANZ Board appointed a six member assessment team to undertake the new program assessment of the Flinders University Optometry program.

The accreditation process has involved:

- In 2012, Flinders University submitted an accreditation submission addressing the OCANZ Standards.
- In October 2012, the assessment team conducted a site visit to Flinders University and produced a document *Report of the OCANZ Assessment Team, November 2012*. In this

report, the assessment team recommended that the program should be accredited to 31 December 2015, subject to 13 conditions:

- Five of the conditions related to clinical training and settings. These conditions included evidence of a complete optometry clinic, details of arrangements with providers of extramural placements and details of clinical training provided to students in 2013.
- Remaining conditions included the requirement to submit a comprehensive progress report and undergo a site visit in 2014, updated staff details, details of the Curriculum Committee and evidence of financial sustainability to ensure staffing levels and infrastructure development.

The OCANZ Board adopted the recommendation.

- The assessment team reviewed Flinders University Optometry 2012 Annual report and July 2013 Interim report and reported its recommendation on conditions in its document *Report of the OCANZ Assessment Team August 2013*. The recommendation of the assessment team was that Flinders University had met four of the conditions on accreditation and these should be removed. The OCANZ Board adopted the recommendation.
- Flinders University Optometry program submitted its 2013 Annual Report to OCANZ in February 2014. The assessment team conducted a site visit to Flinders University in May 2014 and produced *Report of the OCANZ Assessment Team, May 2014*, which addressed the remaining conditions and site visit outcomes. The recommendation of the assessment team was to remove all but 3 of the conditions. The OCANZ Board adopted the recommendation.
- In February 2015, Flinders University submitted their 2014 Annual report which was reviewed by the assessment team. In August 2015, three members of the assessment team conducted a site visit and produced *Report of the OCANZ Assessment Team, August 2015*, which addressed the remaining conditions and site visit outcomes. The recommendation of the assessment team was to remove the 3 remaining conditions and introduce a new condition in relation to Standard 8 – Teaching and support staff. The OCANZ Board adopted the recommendation.
- *The Accreditation Committee Report February 2017* records the findings of the OCANZ Accreditation Committee review of Flinders University's 2015 and 2016 Annual Report. The Accreditation Committee recommended updating Flinders condition on accreditation and this was approved by the OCANZ Board.
- At each stage, the OCANZ Board notified the Optometry Board of Australia (OBA), Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board – New Zealand (ODOB), Chair of Discipline of Optometry and Vision Science and the Vice-Chancellor of Flinders University of its decision.

KEY FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE ASSESSMENT TEAM

The assessment team is satisfied that the graduates of the Flinders University Optometry program should have the knowledge, skills and attributes to meet competency standards (including both universal and therapeutic competencies) as entry level practitioners and that they will be equipped with the necessary skills to maintain those competencies.

The assessment team was able to engage in open and frank discussion with all parties associated with the accreditation process.

The following table lists the key findings of the assessment team. Where an Accreditation Standard is noted as 'substantially met with conditions' or 'not met' the School is required to provide evidence to OCANZ that the actions required in order to meet the specific Standard have been taken.

STANDARD	OUTCOME AND EVIDENCE (not met, substantially met with conditions imposed or met)
1. Organisation, governance and funding	Overall the standard is MET
2. Educational goals and objectives	Overall the standard is MET
	<u>Action required:</u> None
3. Program development and management	Overall the standard is MET
	<u>Action required:</u> None
4. Program curriculum	Overall the standard is MET
	<u>Action required:</u> None
5. Teaching and learning methods	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varied and innovative teaching methods, including emphasis on case based learning. 	<u>Action required:</u> None
6. Clinical training and settings	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical placements are extensive and varied. <u>Recommendation:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More formal, executive monitoring of student patient numbers and action for students with low numbers in specific clinical areas • Reintroduction of external placement providers induction training • Proactive communication between placement providers and Flinders Optometry 	<u>Action required:</u> None
7. Student assessment	Overall the standard is MET
	<u>Action required:</u> None
8. Teaching and support staff	Overall the standard is SUBSTANTIALLY MET WITH CONDITIONS

	<u>Action required:</u> The 2017 Annual Report must include a report on how understaffing in the program is being redressed.
9. Students	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly motivated students. 	<u>Action required:</u> None
10. Physical resources	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-equipped learning environment including Flinders Vision 	<u>Action required:</u> None

OUTCOME

The program remains accredited until December 31 2023 subject to the condition above being met and provided there are no major changes to the program during this period.

The OCANZ Board has adopted the following condition on Flinders University Optometry program accreditation, which was recommended by the Accreditation Committee:

- The 2017 Annual Report must include a report on how understaffing in the program is being redressed.

The Discipline is required, within the Annual Reports, to include any changes made to the program in the preceding year and describe any significant changes to the resources allocated during that year. This is a general requirement of all accredited programs and not a condition specific to this Optometry Program.