



THE ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGEONS  
Incorporated ABN 97 343 369 579

## MRACDS VIVA VOCE CASE PRESENTATION NOTES FOR CANDIDATES

September 2009

### MRACDS Regulations

#### Regulation 22

*Assessment is conducted by the College and consists of the following components:*

- *Eight Open Book Short Answer Questions for each of the core modules.*
- *Two Case Reports per elective.*
- *A half hour face to face Viva Voce Case Presentation prior to completion of the MRACDS program.*

#### Regulation 24

*The final Viva Voce Case Presentation may be taken on confirmed completion of all the other Assessment Components.*

### MRACDS Guidelines

*The Viva Voce Case Presentation is held on two occasions each year. It lasts approximately half an hour and comprises:*

- a) Assessment and discussion of one or more unseen case(s).*
- b) Assessment of the candidate's knowledge in clinical dentistry.*

*The Viva Voce Case Presentation will be examined by two examiners nominated by the Board of Studies for General Dental Practice (or equivalent).*

### The Viva Voce

The *Viva Voce* is a face to face oral case presentation held in the first instance once per year. It is proposed that as the MRACDS program expands there will be two *Viva Voce* case presentations held each year.

The content of the *Viva Voce* will be determined by the Examiners and their own style of questioning, but will be based on the specified curriculum as defined in the MRACDS Guidelines. Eligible candidates will be presented with an unseen case or cases. These cases will provide the framework for the *Viva Voce*. It is not intended to be used for a comprehensive patient evaluation and treatment, but will allow the Examiners flexibility to direct questions as they deem relevant. The candidate will be asked to present their views on the case presented to them, and then will be asked to answer questions which may relate to any aspect of the case.

The case(s) presented to the candidate may include copies of photographs (intra-oral/extra-oral), radiographs, relevant medical and dental history. See the attached two Examples.

The *Viva Voce* requires the candidate to analyse the information provided, consider all influencing factors and then present either specific information or a broad overall general practice treatment philosophy for a given case. It enables a range of treatment options to be considered by the candidate, keeping in mind that all treatment options and decisions need supporting evidence and discussion.

The candidate should be able to demonstrate familiarity with a range of subjects as defined in the curriculum outlined in the MRACDS Guidelines, in particular:

- An understanding of the scientific principles impinging on current biological, clinical, cultural, social and psychological factors which influence the achievement and maintenance of oral health.
- An understanding of the current concepts of dental practice in a variety of settings and possess the skills to provide high quality care in any of these environments.
- The ability to liaise and cooperate with personnel in allied health fields.
- An understanding of the practice of team dentistry, and as a team leader, the ability to consult with and provide efficient organisation of auxiliary members of the dental team.
- The skills to accurately record and assess the information required to make a sound diagnosis and appropriate treatment plan.
- The skills to provide comprehensive oral health care at the level of general dental practice.
- The ability to determine and communicate the long-term strategies of oral health care which are in the best interests of the patient and the community.
- The ability to assess the effectiveness of oral health care regimes.
- An understanding of the legislative and legal constraints applicable to the practice of dentistry and the procedures of informed consent.

### **Assessment Criteria**

Candidates will be assessed based on their ability to:

1. Identify the core issue/s or problem/s within the case.
2. Seek appropriate and sufficient information to understand the issue/problem.
3. Observe interactions that may complicate the management of the issue/problem.
4. Present a quality, focused review outlining the case which is articulated clearly.
5. Identify significant solutions/outcomes giving benefits and complications.
6. Understand diverse points of view other than own.
7. Offer alternative suggestions and the basis for alternatives.
8. Present views ethically and with cultural and social sensitivity.
9. Show professionalism and maturity when personal views are challenged.

## Grading System

The following Grading System will apply:

Grading	Descriptor
<b>6 Excellent</b>	<u>Fulfils &amp; exceeds</u> all performance indicators; outstanding level of overall performance; exceptionally clear understanding & appreciation of issues; well-organised, formulated & sustained arguments; creative insight & originality in comprehension, application & analysis with synthesis & evaluation.
<b>5 Good</b>	<u>Fulfils most</u> of the performance indicators; <u>good level</u> of overall performance; competent understanding & appreciation of the main issues possibly with some lapses; clearly developed arguments; generally well prepared & presented. Solid evidence of comprehension & application with some analysis.
<b>4 Pass</b>	<u>Fulfils most</u> of the performance indicators; <u>satisfactory level</u> of overall performance; basic appreciation of subject matter & issues; work lacking in breadth & depth, & has gaps; limited application & analysis.
<b>3 Fail</b>	<u>Fails to meet half</u> of the performance indicators; a lack of understanding of most concepts; unsatisfactory in most aspects; minimal or inadequate comprehension of material and little or no application; unable to identify issues; inadequate depth & breadth of understanding; material presented is incomplete or irrelevant.

## Examiners

There will be two Examiners per candidate.

The Examiners of the *Viva Voce* will in the first instance be members of the Examinations Committee.

A college staff member may be present as an observer at any *Viva Voce* examination.

## **Viva Preparation Session**

Every year college intends to organize a Viva Preparation Session for MRACDS candidates subject to availability of the examiners and number of interested candidates. Information about this session usually releases during the year.

Possible activities for the Viva Preparation Session include:

- Viewing of the *FEW* Mock Viva Video
- Candidates to be invited to bring an interesting case for discussion (in pairs)
- Role play between Examiners for viewing by candidates
- Role play between candidates (with one candidate playing Examiner).