

Consultation document:

- **2017/18 four-month practising fee and disciplinary levy for oral health therapists**

Issued: 1 August 2017

Submission closing date: 12 September 2017

1. Introduction

Health practitioner annual practising certificate (APC) fees and disciplinary levies are set by health regulatory authorities under sections 130 and 131 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act).

The Dental Council (the Council) is responsible for setting APC fees and disciplinary levies for oral health practitioners.¹ As part of the process of setting these fees and levies, the Council is required to consult with stakeholders.

The current APC fees and disciplinary levies for all oral health practitioners were set in February 2017 following consultation in December 2016. The Council then published the approved fees in the New Zealand Gazette, as it is required to do under the Act.

As you will be aware, the scope of practice for oral health therapy (OHT) comes into effect on 1 November 2017. The Council has not published any fees under the new scope and is seeking to publish these fees before the scope comes into effect.

The purpose of this consultation document is to seek submissions from practitioners and other stakeholders on the proposed 2017/18 four-month practising fee and disciplinary levy for oral health therapists which will take effect from 1 November 2017. The Council is seeking feedback on its proposals by **12 September 2017**. The consultation period will enable feedback to be considered by the Council at its September 2017 meeting.

2. Background

Eligible oral health graduates with current APCs in both dental hygiene and dental therapy will be automatically registered as oral health therapists on 1 November 2017. They will be issued with a new registration certificate and APC in early November 2017. They do not have to apply to register in the new scope, or pay a new fee, as they paid their APC fee and disciplinary levy before the current cycle began on 1 April 2017.

The first applicants for APCs in the OHT scope are anticipated to be the 2017 graduates of the Bachelor of Oral Health, University of Otago; the Bachelor of Health Science in Oral Health, Auckland University of Technology; and applicants who have not been previously registered in New Zealand who are eligible for registration in the OHT scope. New graduates typically apply for registration and the issue of APCs to enable them to commence practise from early December.

Currently, practitioners registered in both the dental hygiene and dental therapy scopes of practice pay only one APC fee and disciplinary levy, being the higher of the two fees. Applicants who have not previously been registered in New Zealand and are applying for a practising certificate within four months of the end of the annual recertification cycle pay a four-month practising fee.

As per the notice in the New Zealand Gazette (No. 11 — 2 February 2017) the higher of the two fees this year is the dental therapy fee. The four-month practising fee for dental therapists is \$206.69 excluding GST and the disciplinary levy is a refund of \$(0.75) excluding GST.

3. Proposed four-month practising fee and disciplinary levy for oral health therapists

The Council is proposing applicants for registration who:

¹ Dentists & dental specialists, dental therapists, dental hygienists & orthodontic auxiliaries, oral health therapists and dental technicians & clinical dental technicians.

- are eligible for graduation in 2017 with the degree of Bachelor of Oral Health from the University of Otago; or
- are eligible for graduation in 2017 with the degree of Bachelor in Health Science in Oral Health from the Auckland University of Technology; or
- have not been previously registered in New Zealand and who are eligible for registration in the OHT scope

who wish to register after 1 November 2017 and before the end of the next recertification cycle on 31 March 2018 will pay a four-month practising fee of \$206.69 plus GST.

As this is a new scope of practice, no disciplinary levy will be applied for the four-month period. Any disciplinary costs (if applicable) will be recovered within the proposed 2018/19 disciplinary reserve adjustment. As per previous years, this will be included in the consultation on the proposed 2018/19 budget, fees and levies later this year.

4. Submissions

The objective of the consultation is to gather views from practitioners and other stakeholders to enable the Council to make a final decision on the proposal.

Council is consulting on the above proposals with oral health practitioners, relevant associations and societies, the Ministry of Health, District Health Boards and other organisations with an interest. The proposals will also be published on the Council's website, with a similar invitation to comment.

Submissions received will be published on the Council's website shortly after receipt, and will remain there as a public document. All personal contact details will be removed from submissions. Council does reserve the right not to publish any derogatory or inflammatory submissions.

As this is a public consultation, "in confidence" information will only be accepted under special circumstances. Please contact us before submitting material in confidence.

Council invites comments on the proposals which must be received in its office by **5pm on Tuesday 12 September 2017** after which the Council will consider all submissions before finalisation.

Responses should be sent to:

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Yours sincerely,



Marie Warner
Chief Executive