

Cases of suspected illegal dental practice procedures

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Scheduled review	
Approved by	Council

Purpose

The purpose of this document is clarify the role of the Dental Council and Registrar in dealing with cases of suspected illegal dental practice.

Illegal dental practice

It is illegal to practise as an oral health practitioner, carry out activities restricted to oral health practitioners, or to use names, words, titles, abbreviations or descriptions stating or implying that a person is a registered practitioner if they are not a registered practitioner.

The specific restrictions are set out in the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (“the Act”).

The Ministry of Health is responsible for investigating suspected illegal practice

In cases of suspected breaches of the Act, it is the Ministry of Health that is responsible for following up, investigating and prosecuting (where appropriate).

Where information regarding cases of suspected illegal dental practice is supplied to the Dental Council, and the person in question is confirmed to be not registered, the Registrar will provide this information to the Ministry of Health for further action.

Procedures for the Dental Council and Registrar

Information regarding alleged cases of illegal dental practice should be discussed with, or sent to, the Registrar of the Dental Council. If possible, and where relevant, information should include:

- Full name of alleged unregistered oral health practitioner
- Location of practice
- Telephone number
- Nationality of alleged unregistered oral health practitioner
- Publication name and date of advertising and a copy (if printed) details of date, time and station (if broadcast)
- Any complaints or information from patients or other people about the alleged unregistered oral health practitioner, including name, address and telephone number of complaining patient

- Any other relevant information including details of any treatment or medication administered by the alleged unregistered oral health practitioner.

The Registrar will check the Dental Register to confirm that the alleged unregistered oral health practitioner is not registered. This information will be supplied to the Ministry of Health as above.