

## Recency of practice policy

Date last reviewed	May 2009
Scheduled review	
Approved by	Council

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of the public by ensuring that oral health practitioners who have not practised recently are safe to practise.

### Scope

This policy applies to:

1. All applicants for registration or for an Annual Practising Certificate (APC) in New Zealand who have not practised in three years, and/or held an APC within the three years immediately preceding the date of the application.
2. Recent graduates, who apply for registration and their first APC after 12 months of graduating.

### Policy

1. Applications for registration from practitioners who have not practised and/or held an Annual Practising Certificate (APC) in the last three years, will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Council.
2. When determining whether the applicant meets the required standard of competence the Council shall take into consideration:
  - (a) The applicant's training, experience and formal qualifications (including when the applicant undertook their relevant formal qualifications);
  - (b) The length of time away from practice;
  - (c) The appropriateness and extent of any continuing professional development (CPD) undertaken by the applicant, including any evidence that the applicant has kept up to date with contemporary practice and advances in the scope of practice concerned;
  - (d) The nature and extent of any practise outside New Zealand of the applicable scope of practice by the applicant;
  - (e) The nature and extent of any research, study or teaching relating to the applicable scope of practice, undertaken by the applicant;
  - (f) The nature and extent of any managerial, advisory and administrative work, relating to the applicable scope of practice performed by the applicant;
  - (g) The extent of prior experience, by the applicant, in an oral health scope of practice other than that which they are applying for;

- (h) Whether the applicant meets the fitness to practise requirements as specified in the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (“the Act”);
  - (i) Any declared health condition(s), disciplinary or competency issues and civil or criminal proceedings which may affect the applicant’s fitness or competence to practise;
  - (j) Any other relevant factors.
3. Recent graduates, who apply for registration and their first APC after 12 months of graduating will have their applications considered on a case-by-case basis by the Council and will be required to submit the following with their registration application:
- (a) Details of participation in activities undertaken to update and enhance professional skills, including details of whether they have participated in a graduate recertification programme;
  - (b) A detailed history of employment, including places and dates of employment, responsibilities, and working hours per week;
  - (c) Details of any practice of the applicable scope of practice overseas (if applicable);
  - (d) When determining whether the applicant meets the required standard of competence the Council shall take into consideration activities detailed in 2.
4. The Council can decide that specific conditions may be placed on the practitioner’s scope of practice which may include any combination of the following:
- (a) Approved course of study or retraining;
  - (b) Approved mentoring or supervision practice;
  - (c) Approved assessment or examination;
  - (d) Approved CPD activities;
  - (e) Any other appropriate condition on practice.
5. Where the Council considers that no conditions will ensure the competent practice of the applicant, the application will be declined.

The applicant will be given the opportunity to be heard and make submissions, as required by the Act.

## References

1. Dental Council Registration Policy.
2. Dental Council Policy on Competence to Practise.
3. Dental Council Policy on Fitness to Practise.