



NEWS

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The year in overview and best wishes for 2014

Michael Bain, Dental Council Chair

Dental Council has had yet another busy year with various

projects, as well as usual business. There has been a change in Council membership. Dr Mark Goodhew, the previous Chair, has been replaced by Dr Andrew Gray, the details of which are covered elsewhere in this newsletter. I would like to give special mention to Mark for his contribution to Council especially in his capacity as Chair. He brought a wealth of experience and expertise to the role which he carried out with aplomb. It is a big job which occupies a lot of personal time and I sincerely thank him for his efforts. I have also enjoyed working with Andrew in the short time he has been on Council.

In previous newsletters there has been mention of a single shared secretariat for health regulatory authorities (RAs). This has not come together in its entirety but there has been some sharing of resources and there are now seven RAs co-located with us in ASB House. This has resulted in a number of efficiencies. The next project is looking at collaborating on a shared information technology system. ASB House also proved its worth as it withstood two significant earthquakes earlier this year. While there was only minor damage it was an unsettling experience for the secretariat staff who coped well. The earthquakes also tested our systems which allowed business as usual while operating from remote locations.

Council established various working parties for activities such as reviews of policies, standards, scopes of practice and competencies.

I thank the members of these working parties for their contributions. Council provided a submission on the Vulnerable Children Bill, the concept of which we fully support.

It has been a busy year with our international liaisons. A highlight was the setting up of an International Dental Regulators Forum of which our CEO, Marie Warner, has been elected as co-chair. This forum will allow knowledge sharing which will lead to better and more consistent regulation on an international basis. In the meantime, Council has maintained regular liaison with its New Zealand stakeholders.

I am constantly amazed by the capacity for hard work within the secretariat. For example, staff members are constantly refining the processes for the two APC rounds each year and are now able to process most applications within a day. This year has also seen the end of the CPD cycle for dentists, which has resulted in a huge volume of work for staff and the Council CPD sub-committee. This all has to be fitted in around the usual activities. Their efforts are much appreciated. Finally, I would like to thank the Deputy Chair, Dr Robin Whyman, and the other members of Council for their wisdom, support and commitment during this busy year. On behalf of Dental Council and the secretariat staff, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and an enjoyable and restful holiday season.

The Dental Council office will be closing on Friday 20 December for the festive season and will reopen on Monday 6 January 2014.

The year in overview and best wishes for 2014

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Council membership changes



Outgoing Chair – Mark Goodhew

Mark Goodhew was appointed to Dental Council in April 2010 for a three year term, and was appointed to the Dentist Board in May 2010.

He served on the Board until its disestablishment in August 2011. Mark was elected Deputy Chair of Council in February 2011, and was Acting Chair of Council from June 2011 until Council's meeting in August, when he was elected Chair of Council. As Chair, Mark also served on Council's Audit and Risk Management Committee, and was a member of the joint Australian Dental Council/Dental Council (NZ) Accreditation Committee.

Mark decided for personal reasons that he would not seek re-appointment at the end of his three year term and his Council tenure ended on 19 September 2013.

Mark continuously strived to strengthen Council's working relationship with the professional associations and overseas bodies. In particular, the progress made on the development of an ethical standards framework was facilitated through Mark's continued effort to gain buy-in from the professions. Mark's significant involvement, leadership and extensive time commitment on the proposal for a single shared secretariat enhanced Council's reputation and standing within the health regulatory environment.

Considerable thanks goes to Mark for his valued contribution to Dental Council during his term.

Council election

The change in Council membership necessitated an election for the position of Chair. Michael Bain was elected as Chair in September 2013, and Robin Whyman as Deputy Chair.



New member – Colonel Andrew Gray

Colonel Andrew Gray was appointed by the Minister of Health to Dental Council in September 2013.

Andrew graduated in 1991 with a Bachelor of Dental Surgery from the Queen's University of Belfast. In 1992 he completed a Vocational Training Certificate in General

Dental Practice in the United Kingdom. From 1993 – 1996 Andrew worked at the University of Otago as a Clinical Tutor, Clinical Co-ordinator and Lecturer. He returned to London in 1997, and worked in general dental practice. In 1998 he became a Fellow of The Royal College of General Dental Practitioners (UK) and in 2011 a Fellow of the Academy of Dentistry International.

Andrew returned to New Zealand in 2000 and was employed as Senior Dental Officer in the Royal New Zealand Navy. In March 2003 he enlisted into the New Zealand Army and was appointed as Chief Dental Officer in Auckland, and later became Dental Officer in support of NZSAS. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in November 2007, and was posted to Wellington in the appointment of Assistant Director Defence Dental Services. In December 2008, on promotion to Colonel, he assumed the role of Director Defence Dental Services. Andrew was appointed to the role of Director Defence Health in September 2013, the first dentist to hold this position worldwide.

Andrew is the New Zealand Queen's Honorary Dental Surgeon. He is a graduate of the United States Army Medical Strategic Leadership Program and is an honorary affiliate of the United States Army Medical Department Regiment. He serves on the Executive of the World Dental Federation Section of Defence Forces Dental Services.

Within the New Zealand Ministry of Health, Andrew is currently Vice-Chair of Electronic Oral Health Records Board and is on the New Zealand Oral Health Clinical Leadership Board. He has sat on the New Zealand Dental Association Board and on the New Zealand Dental Association Executive until his appointment to the Dental Council in 2013. Andrew is fully credentialed in Forensic Dentistry with the New Zealand Society of Forensic Odontology.



Reminder: End of the CPD Cycle for Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists, Orthodontic Auxiliaries, Dental Technicians and Clinical Dental Technicians

The continuing professional development (CPD) four-year cycle for dental hygienists, dental therapists, orthodontic auxiliaries, dental technicians and clinical dental technicians ends on **31 December 2013**.

By that time, you are required to have completed the minimum number of verifiable CPD hours and peer-contact activities as outlined in Council's Policy on Continuing Professional Development Activities, as set out in the table on the right.

All practitioners involved in the current recertification programme ending on 31 December 2013 should have received a letter and a self-declaration form via post in September 2013, advising them of their end-of-cycle requirements. If you have not received your letter or have any questions, please contact the secretariat at inquiries@dcnz.org.nz or 04 499 4820.

Profession	Minimum number of verifiable CPD hours	Minimum number of peer contact activities
Dental hygienists	60	8
Dental therapists	60	8
Orthodontic auxiliaries	30	6
Dental technicians	40	0
Clinical dental technicians	60	0

Note: Dual registered dental hygienists/dental therapists require 60 hours of verifiable continuing professional development and eight peer-contact activities.

Your completed self-declaration must be submitted to Council by **20 January 2014**. The self-declaration can also be accessed on Council's website at: www.dcnz.org.nz/Documents/WhatsNew/CPDVerification_Self-declaration.pdf

Other Council Activities

Current Consultations

Budget 2014/15, fees and disciplinary levies consultation

Council is now consulting on its proposed 2014/15 budget, and its associated fees and levies for the year.

The APC fees and disciplinary levies are for dental therapists, dental hygienists, orthodontic auxiliaries, dental technicians and clinical dental technicians. The other fees that Council is consulting on are the fee payable for retaining non-practising registrants on the register and examination fees. No changes are being proposed to registration fees and fees relating to competence and other individual programmes that Council may order individual practitioners to undertake. It is proposed that the revised fees will take effect on 1 April 2014.

Please note that APC fees and the disciplinary levy for dentists and dental specialists will be consulted upon separately in May 2014.

If you wish to have your say on the proposed budget or any of the proposed fees, the full consultation document is available on Council's website at: www.dcnz.org.nz/dcWhatsNew. Have your comments to Council by **28 January 2014**.

Consultations – Outcomes

Medical emergencies

The consultation on a proposed Medical Emergencies in Dental Practice Code of Practice closed in July 2013. Council considered all submissions at its 2 September 2013 meeting and agreed to establish an expert team to further consider the feedback relating to sedation, equipment, and emergency drug requirements. The team will submit a report to Council for consideration.

The team's meeting is scheduled for 22 January 2014, and finalisation of the Medical Emergencies in Dental Practice Code of Practice is deferred until after the completion of this process.

In the interim, the current Medical Emergencies in Dental Practice Codes of Practice remain in place. These codes can be found at the following link: www.dcnz.org.nz/dcStandardsCodes.

Proposed prescribed qualification for the scope of practice for Oral Medicine Specialists

Council issued a consultation document in July 2013 on the proposed prescribed qualification for the scope of practice for Oral Medicine Specialists.

The consultation document proposed that:

- The DClinDent (Oral Medicine) programme plus a recognised medical degree be included as a prescribed qualification for the scope of practice for Oral Medicine Specialists;
- The World Directory of Medical Schools be used as the medical component in conjunction with the DClinDent (Oral Medicine) programme for registration in the scope of practice for Oral Medicine Specialists; and
- Consequential changes be made to the prescribed qualifications of the Oral Medicine and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery scopes of practice, accepting the *WHO World Directory of Medical Schools* or the *ECFMG Faimer Directory*.

The consultation closed on 3 September 2013 and Council considered the submissions at its November meeting.

Due to the focus of various submissions on the need, or otherwise, of a medical degree for registration in the scope of practice for Oral Medicine Specialists, further consideration of Council's policy requirement for a medical degree is required, prior to finalisation of the consultation outcome.

Council deferred its decision on the consultation to allow for further investigation on the format of the oral medicine prescribed qualifications for registration in New Zealand. This will include international benchmarking and liaison with other international jurisdictions that may result in further consultation prior to finalisation.

Code reviews

Standards Review Committee 2013/14 reviews

The Standards Review Committee, established earlier this year, held three meetings since June 2013.

To determine its work plan for the year the committee undertook a risk analysis on the need for review of Council's current codes of practice and statements, including some proposed new codes, and allocated a risk rating to each. This informed the committee on the priorities for the codes of practice review over the next two to three years. This risk matrix will be reviewed by the committee on an annual basis, to ensure that significant changes within the practice environment translate through to the review priorities.

Council approved the following 2013/14 review work plan of the committee:

- Ethical conduct
- Transmissible Major Viral Infections (TMVI)
- Cross infection.

Work streams have been established within the committee to progress the initial gap analyses on the areas for review, updating or further development. These gap analyses will form the basis for the terms of reference for the working groups to review the TMVI and Cross Infection codes of practice.

The ethical conduct work stream assisted Council in the refinement of the proposed Ethical Standards Framework, due to be issued for consultation in 2014.

To enable the review process of the codes to progress and the need for clinical input at the early review stages, a new position within the secretariat was created – Professional Advisor: Policy and Standards.

Duchesne Hall, a general dentist, was appointed to the position and joined the secretariat in October 2013. She will continue practising in private practice in Epsom, Auckland, while working for Council two to three days weekly. In the short time Duchesne has been on-board she has made a valuable contribution to the work of the secretariat, and will work closely with the Standards Review Committee.

Other reviews

Dental Specialist competencies review

Council has agreed to a joint review with the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) of the competencies of the dental specialists' scopes of practice. The review will start in 2014, and communication to all the relevant specialist bodies and educational institutions will be issued to keep the relevant groups informed of the process.

The proposed sets of competencies will be consulted on with Council stakeholders in due course.

Accreditation Standards

Council and DBA approved a joint review of the Australian Dental Council and Dental Council (New Zealand) accreditation standards for all the professions' programmes.

In jointly supporting the review of the accreditation standards, Council and DBA required that:

- The competencies, skills and attributes of a new graduate were embedded into the accreditation standards, so that the standard of knowledge, skills and professional attributes expected from the programme are clear.
- The standard of clinical facilities and extent of clinical training for the specific divisions of dental practitioners be articulated in the revised standards.
- The expected level of academic and teaching staff be clarified, including that they be appropriately registered by the relevant regulatory body.
- Appropriate requirements for a peer review process be articulated, particularly with respect to the specialist programmes.

A discussion paper will be issued to stakeholders inviting general comments on necessary changes required to the accreditation standards. This will be followed by two workshops in Australia and one in New Zealand to allow key stakeholders an opportunity to participate in the review process. The final draft accreditation standards will then be consulted on with Council stakeholders.



Delegates of the Inaugural International Conference of Dental Regulators

Liaison

International Dental Regulators Forum

The first International Conference of Dental Regulators was held in Edinburgh on 12 October 2013. The conference was attended by 36 delegates representing the following countries: Australia, Canada, Croatia, Dubai, France, Ireland, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Poland, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

Council's representatives were the Chair, Michael Bain, and Chief Executive Officer, Marie Warner.

It was a full-day conference on topics including health regulation; reciprocal agreements and mutual recognition of professional qualifications; accreditation; generic international practice standards; complaints processes; workforce mobility; and regulatory bodies' performance measurement.

The key-note speaker was the Chief Executive of the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care in the United Kingdom, Mr Harry Cayton, O.B.E.

The co-chairs of the conference were Marie Warner and Peter Trainor, President of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario.

The conference concluded with a consensus that the forum should continue. A working group was established to consider various suggestions from the conference, including a business model for the forum. The membership of the working group is: Ramadan Ibrahim (Dubai), Cedric Grolleau (France), David O'Flynn (Ireland), Peter Trainor (Canada), Tanya Vogt (Australia), Irwin Fefergrad (Canada) and Marie Warner (New Zealand). Peter Trainor and Marie Warner are to continue as co-chairs until December 2015.

The forum will aim to extend its membership by inviting participation from other jurisdictions.

Recognition of Ireland's accreditation processes

Dental Council's Chair and Chief Executive Officer, along with the Executive Officer of the Dental Board of Australia, Tanya Vogt, met with the Irish Dental Council on 12 October 2013 to explore recognition of the accreditation processes between the three jurisdictions. The representatives also visited the University of Dublin – Trinity College campus.

The investigation included comparisons of the accreditation processes and standards; regulatory frameworks; recertification frameworks for registered practitioners; and the scopes of practice and competencies for dentists, dental specialists, dental hygienists, orthodontic auxiliaries, dental and clinical dental technicians. Some areas were identified for further investigation, and the follow-up review will be concluded next year.

If Council agrees at the end of the investigation that the jurisdictions are comparable, then Council will consult with stakeholders on the proposal to recognise Irish accredited qualifications as equivalent, and that they be gazetted as prescribed qualifications for the relevant New Zealand scopes of practice.

Vulnerable Children Bill

The Vulnerable Children Bill was introduced to Parliament on 2 September 2013. Under the proposed legislation the Chief Executives of five government agencies – Health, Education, Police, Justice, and Social Development – would have new legislated responsibilities and accountability for the protection and improvement of the lives of vulnerable children.

These agencies (and those they contract to, such as, District Health Boards) would be required to have child protection policies guiding staff to identify and report child abuse and neglect. The new policies would directly affect front line staff in the way they work. This would have an impact for dental therapists and other dental practitioners working with children. The proposed legislation would also introduce minimum standards for screening and vetting the central government staff working with children and government funded contractors working with children.

The Bill is now before a select committee for consideration. As the dental workforce work extensively with children and adolescents, Council made submissions on the Bill. The date for public submissions closed on 30 October 2013.

Alongside the introduction of the Bill, the Ministry of Health has developed best practice guidelines intended to be used across the children's workforce, *Safer Recruitment Guidelines*. Council made a submission on the draft guidelines on 20 September 2013. The Ministry of Health updated the draft guidelines for the section relating to registration and regulating authorities, following feedback and comments from a number of responsible authorities, including the Dental Council. News of the latest developments may be found at www.childrensactionplan.govt.nz/news

Commerce Commission launch of health sector fact sheets

The Commerce Commission has developed a series of fact sheets to help health professionals better understand how competition and consumer laws apply to them. The fact sheets are particularly relevant to health professionals in business or practising on their own account. The currently available fact sheets include:

- How competition and consumer laws apply to the health sector
- Setting your fees
- Promoting your services
- Professional bodies.

The fact sheets can be viewed at: www.comcom.govt.nz/business-competition/fact-sheets-3/health/

There are two more fact sheets in production – *Offering credit to your patients*, and *Large Buyers* – both should be completed soon. The Commission is also developing a micro-website for health sector users. The objective is to make relevant information easily accessible. Users will be able to access all the health series fact sheets on the microsite. The site will include a “test your knowledge” feature, an anonymous quiz that will provide instant feedback to you on your knowledge of competition law, the Fair Trading Act 1986 and other health sector related information. The microsite link will be made available to practitioners once the site has gone live.

Advertising

Practitioners are reminded to familiarise themselves with Council's Code of Practice for Advertising which came into effect on 1 November 2013. Practitioners should also be aware of other legal obligations when promoting goods and services. For example, the Fair Trading Act prohibits “*misleading or deceptive conduct, false representations and unfair practices*” and applies to everyone in trade. The Commerce Commission has published general fact sheets to aid understanding of the obligations under the Fair Trading Act. The fact sheets are headed – *Comparative advertising; Claiming you're something you're not; Fine Print; Pricing; and Jargon, Exaggerations and Puffery*, and are available for viewing at www.comcom.govt.nz

Accreditation

2013 Accreditation outcomes

Three accreditation reviews were conducted during 2013.

- Auckland University of Technology Bachelor of Health Science in Oral Health was granted re-accreditation until 31 December 2018.
- New Zealand Association of Orthodontists – Orthodontic Auxiliary Training Programme was granted re-accreditation until 31 December 2018, subject to meeting the following condition:

That a clinical position be established by June 2014, to

- a. link the students and the supervisors to a contact person who is a clinician
- b. review all applications for training before consideration by the selection committee
- c. verify the completed Clinic Assessment Sheet prior to the administrator entering the student for the final retreat.

- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Education and Training Program of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons was granted re-accreditation until 31 December 2018, subject to meeting the following condition:

That the College identify a person or body for consideration by Council as appropriate to undertake a peer evaluation of the OMS programme and provide a satisfactory peer evaluation report by July 2014.

2014 Accreditation review

The University of Otago Bachelor of Oral Health programme is scheduled for an accreditation review during 2014.

Approval of courses

ARDS Diagnostic Radiography

The Auckland Regional Dental Services Diagnostic Radiography course has been approved for a period of five years, until November 2018. Accordingly, practitioners with the exclusion of Diagnostic Radiography on their dental therapy scope of practice, who have successfully completed the course, will be eligible to have the exclusion removed.



A reminder for practitioners with an exclusion on their scope of practice

For practitioners with an exclusion on their scope of practice (for example, a dental hygienist with the exclusion of local anaesthesia on their scope of practice; or a dental therapist with exclusions of pulpotomies and stainless steel crowns on their scope of practice), please be mindful that if you have subsequently completed the appropriate training course to undertake the excluded tasks, **you must not** do so before the relevant exclusion has been removed from your scope of practice by Council.

Practitioners are encouraged to make timely applications for the removal of an exclusion from their scope of practice.

If an application for the removal of an exclusion is made more than 12 months after the completion of the relevant training, the application will require referral to Council for consideration under Council's policy on *Recency of Practice*.

Dental Technicians and Clinical Dental Technicians disciplinary levy imposed

Significant costs have been incurred by Council in prosecuting disciplinary action against a number of dental technicians and clinical dental technicians. During 2012/13 there was an increase in the number of cases before Council.

Twelve technician disciplinary cases were referred by Council to professional conduct committees; and six of

those were subsequently referred to the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal with hearings scheduled for 2013/14.

A projected deficit of \$80,382 is anticipated for the technicians' disciplinary reserve at 31 March 2014.

Accordingly, Council has imposed upon all technicians holding a current practising certificate on 4 November 2013, a disciplinary levy of \$237.11 (plus 15% GST). The levy was published in the *New Zealand Gazette* on 14 November 2013.

The disciplinary levy invoices have been issued and payment is due by **31 March 2014**.

Discipline update

Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal decisions – Practising without a practising certificate

The Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal has found that charges laid against five individual practitioners by professional conduct committees, were proved. In each case, the Tribunal found the practitioner was guilty of practising without a practising certificate (for periods ranging from 10 to 27 days). The Tribunal ordered the following penalties:

- **Joseph Petelo**, a general dentist and orthodontic specialist, of Auckland, was ordered to be censured; pay a fine of \$500; and pay costs of \$4,000.
Decision No: 569/Den/249P, 4 September 2013.
A full decision of the Tribunal can be viewed at: www.hpdt.org.nz/Default.aspx?Tabid=386
- **Simon Devine**, a dental technician, of Raglan, was ordered to be censured; pay a fine of \$500; and pay costs of \$1,750.

Decision No: 555/Dtech13/232P, 8 July 2013.

A full decision of the Tribunal can be viewed at: www.hpdt.org.nz/Default.aspx?tabid=369

- **Carl Stokes**, a dental technician and clinical dental technician, formerly of Waikanae now of Australia, was ordered to be censured; pay a fine of \$1,500; and pay costs of \$9,000.

Decision No: 556/Dtech13/233P, 8 July 2013.

A full decision of the Tribunal can be viewed at: www.hpdt.org.nz/Default.aspx?tabid=370

- **Michael van Vliet**, a dental technician and clinical dental technician, of Auckland, was ordered to be censured; pay a fine of \$750; and pay costs of \$1,000.

Decision No: 550/Dtech13/243P, 10 July 2013.

A full decision of the Tribunal can be viewed at: www.hpdt.org.nz/Default.aspx?tabid=371

- **Christiaan Wolmarans**, a dental technician, of Auckland, was ordered to be censured; pay a fine of \$500; and pay costs of \$500.

Decision No: 554/Dtech13/236P, 10 July 2013.

A full decision of the Tribunal can be viewed at: www.hpdt.org.nz/Default.aspx?Tabid=373

Of note, the Tribunal confirmed in the *Devine* case that it was unnecessary to prove an intention to flout professional obligations; nor was it an element of the offence that the practitioner knew or ought to have known of the absence of an annual practising certificate (APC).

Only three elements were required to be proven, that:

- the practitioner was at the relevant time registered;
- the practitioner was at the relevant time practising his or her profession; and
- the practitioner did not at the relevant time hold a current APC.

In the *Petelo* case, the Tribunal emphasised, as in earlier decisions, that it was the responsibility of every practitioner to ensure an APC application was made and the appropriate fee paid in a timely fashion, “*such that the practising certificate is issued before the previous one expires. Otherwise, the responsibility is then on the practitioner not to practise until the renewed certificate is received*”.

The Tribunal expressed a concern that the dental profession as a whole, was having to meet significant costs as a consequence of the prosecution process. However, the Tribunal also acknowledged that the prosecution process appeared to be the only option available in the event of there not being a timely renewal of an APC where a practitioner continued to practise.

Convicted dentist suspended for 12 months

On 6 September 2013, the Tribunal found Dr Sanjay Sathe, a registered dentist of Auckland, had been convicted of an offence that reflected adversely on his fitness to practise. Dr Sathe had been convicted in the Manukau District Court of 18 offences under the Crimes Act 1961, including 10 charges of dishonestly using a document and 8 charges of false accounting. The notice of conviction was referred by Council to a professional conduct committee (PCC) for investigation and the PCC determined to lay a charge with the Tribunal. In its decision, the Tribunal

confirmed there was “no doubt” that Dr Sathe’s conduct reflected adversely on his fitness to practise as a dentist. The Tribunal noted, in particular, that the offences occurred in the context of Dr Sathe’s professional practice; they were “*sophisticated and premeditated*”; and involved a significant breach of trust with a significant impact on the health of children in the community. When discussing penalty, the Tribunal took into account several mitigating factors including, Dr Sathe’s early guilty pleas, full reparation having been made immediately, previous good behaviour, genuine remorse, and the completion of a court ordered home detention sentence without any issues. The Tribunal ordered that Dr Sathe be suspended for a period of 12 months as from the date of the hearing (9 August 2013); censured; ordered to pay a contribution of \$9,000 towards the cost of prosecution; and should Dr Sathe resume practice, certain conditions would apply for a period of two years. A full decision of the Tribunal can be viewed at www.hpdt.org.nz/Default.aspx?Tabid=383

Practitioners’ duty to behave appropriately extends beyond the practise of their profession

A PCC has recently investigated the appropriateness of the conduct of a registered dentist convicted of offences under the Crimes Act. The dentist was granted name suppression by the District Court. While the dentist’s questionable conduct did not take place within the practise of his profession, the PCC highlighted the expectation that all registered practitioners were to abide by the Council’s Principles of Ethical Conduct. Principle 4 states that Council expects all oral health practitioners to “*uphold the integrity of your profession and justify the trust placed in you by your patients, colleagues and the public.*” The PCC considered the dentist had not met this standard.

The PCC determined that a charge should be brought against the practitioner before the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal. A hearing date has yet to be scheduled.

Discipline and competence cost breakdown

With an increase in disciplinary cases referred to professional conduct committees and charges laid before the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, Council considered it appropriate to provide practitioners with a summary of the external party costs incurred in discipline cases and competence reviews. The costs are reflected in the table on the right.

1 April 2012 – 30 November 2013

	Discipline \$	Competence review \$
Dentists	322,000	75,000
Dental therapists	37,000	16,000
Dental hygienists	11,000	-
Dental technicians	199,000	-
TOTAL	569,000	91,000