

## Dental Council of New Zealand Meeting – 8 May 2007 Summary of Decisions

### Distribution of Council minutes

A summary of the decisions made at each Council meeting is to be posted on the website.

### Jurisdiction of the Auditor General

An unintended consequence of HPCAA has been to bring the health regulatory bodies under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Auditor General. This will be raised as part of the HPCAA review.

### Draft year end accounts

The draft DCNZ accounts for the year ending 31 March 2007 show:

- a surplus of \$150,000 largely due to increased interest income and decreased workforce board costs
- reserves of \$1.7 million.

### Council and Workforce Board appointments

<b>Dental Council</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Appt date</b>	<b>Term expiry</b>	<b>Profession</b>	<b>Term</b>
Ed Alcock	Mar 2006	Mar 2009	Dentist (GP)	Second
Albert Kewene	Mar 2006	Mar 2009	Dentist (Specialist)	Second
Riria Handscomb	Mar 2006	Mar 2009	Layperson	Second
Vicki Kershaw	Mar 2006	Mar 2009	Therapist	Second
Robyn Watson	Mar 2006	Mar 2009	Hygienist	Second
Neil Waddell	Apr 2005	Apr 2008	Dental Technician	First
Mary Livingston (Chair)	Mar 2007	Mar 2010	Dentist (Specialist)	Second
Robert Love (Dep Chair)	Mar 2007	Mar 2010	Educationalist (Dental Specialist)	Second
Erin Collins	Mar 2007	Mar 2010	Dentist (GP)	Second
John Robertson	Mar 2007	Mar 2010	Layperson	Second
Helen Colebrook	Mar 2007	Mar 2010	Layperson	First

<b>Dentist Board</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Initial Appt date</b>	<b>Profession</b>	<b>Term expiry date</b>
Ed Alcock	Dec 2003	Dentist (GP)	Mar 2009
Albert Kewene	Dec 2003	Dentist (Specialist)	Mar 2009
Erin Collins (Deputy Chair)	Dec 2003	Dentist (GP)	Mar 2010
Mary Livingston	Dec 2003	Dentist (Specialist)	Mar 2008
Robert Love (Chair)	Dec 2003	Educationalist Dentist (Specialist)	Mar 2010
John Robertson	Dec 2003	Layperson	Mar 2010

<b>Dental Hygienist Board</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Initial appt date</b>	<b>Profession</b>	<b>Expiry of term</b>
Robyn Watson	Dec 2003	Hygienist	Mar 2009
Alison Meldrum	Dec 2003	Educationalist Dentist	Mar 2010
Leslea Stapleton (Chair)	Dec 2003	Hygienist	Mar 2009
Irirangi Mako	Mar 2006	Layperson	Mar 2010
Tanya Cleland	Feb 2006	Orthodontic Auxiliary	Mar 2010
Kirsty Jennings (Dep Chair)	Apr 2006	Hygienist	Mar 2010

<b>Dental Technicians Board</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Initial appt date</b>	<b>Profession</b>	<b>Expiry of term</b>
Neil Waddell (Chair)	Apr 2005	DT	Apr 2008
Karl Lyons (Deputy Chair)	Jan 2006	Dentist	Jan 2009
Byron Lord	Apr 2006	DT	Apr 2009
Tracy Burke	Oct 2006	DT	Oct 2007
Danny O'Sullivan	Dec 2003	CDT	Mar 2010
Phyllis Huitema	Dec 2003	Layperson	Mar 2010

<b>Dental Therapist Board</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Initial appt date</b>	<b>Profession</b>	<b>Expiry of term</b>
Vicki Kershaw	Dec 2003	Dental Therapist	Mar 2009
Barbara Dewson (Chair)	Dec 2003	Dental Therapist	Mar 2010
Keita Tahana	Dec 2003	Dental Therapist	Mar 2010
Pip Zammit (Deputy Chair)	Dec 2003	Dental Therapist	Mar 2009
John Robertson	Dec 2003	Layperson	Mar 2010

### **Ministry of Health request for comments on elections to health regulatory authorities**

Approved draft response to Ministry of Health on its request for comments on the possibility of allowing the Medical Council to hold elections for the Minister to appoint one or more of the successful candidates to the Medical Council.

### **Delegations review**

Approved greater delegations to the Registrar to approve, decline or place conditions in relation to registration and practising certificate applications in consultation with the relevant workforce board chair.

### **Process to register dental auxiliaries in a limited scope of dental hygiene scope of practice with conditions**

Noted the implementation plan to register dental auxiliaries in a limited scope of dental hygiene practice by year-end.

### **Oral surgery**

Noted that stakeholders have been advised that Council has decided to reopen the oral surgery scope of practice and will implement this decision upon finalisation of the scope of practice and training requirements. As such stakeholders are being asked for their comments on the proposed detailed scope of oral surgery practice and training requirements by 30 June 2007.

### **Orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice**

Noted that Dental Hygienist Board representatives are participating in an NZAO working party to review the scope of orthodontic auxiliary practice which will then be presented to Council for consideration.

### **Additional scope of orthodontic procedures in dental hygiene practice**

Agreed to propose an amendment to this additional scope to address the current problem of clinical guidance only being able to be provided by the dentist/specialist who developed the treatment plan.

### **Dental technicians scopes for practice**

Considered and discussed the New Zealand Institute of Dental Technologists' concerns about the consultation processes adopted in the development of the dental technology scopes of practice and the content of the scopes of practice.

Agreed to obtain further information including the Ministry of Health's views on:

- what activities dental technicians and clinical dental technicians were legally able to undertake under the exemption provisions of the Dental Act 1988
- the approach the Dental Council has adopted under HPCAA in relation to the additional implant overdenture scope of practice, final fitting by dentists of overdentures and clinical extra oral maxillofacial work by dental technicians.

### **Registration examination matters**

Noted that:

- the first joint ADC/DCNZ Overseas Trained Dentists Preliminary Examination was held in March 2007
- the Dentist Board has suggested a calibration exercise for the New Zealand and Australian dentist's clinical examination
- a dental hygiene registration examination (Written) has been scheduled for 8 July 2007 but will proceed only if there are sufficient numbers of candidates to ensure cost recovery
- a joint Australasian dental technicians registration examination has been proposed under the auspices of CORA
- the General Dental Council is consulting on proposed changes to its examination for overseas (non-EEA) dentists. The new examination format will replace the existing statutory International Qualifying Examination. The Dentist Board will be submitting on the GDC consultation document.

### **DCNZ interpretation of restricted activities list**

Approved a revised interpretative policy statement on which procedures fall within the category of a restricted activity.

### **Laser technology**

Agreed that:

- dental hygienists may only use laser technology in accordance with the Council's policy on advanced and new areas of practice, which requires practitioners to have undertaken appropriate training before introducing new techniques or procedures into their practice
- the use of laser technology falls within the dental hygiene scope for the removal of calculus and bleaching procedures provided adjacent tissues are not modified
- the use of laser technology to remove hard or soft tissue or desensitise teeth falls outside the DH scope of practice.

### **Policy statement on advanced and new areas of practice**

Agreed to amend the current guidance on the introduction of new or advanced areas of practice to:

- provide a clearer articulation of the requirement for adequate training and education (didactic and practical components)
- set our practitioners' responsibilities to understand the scientific basis of new and advanced areas of practice and be assured that the efficacy of new techniques/technologies can be demonstrated before introducing them into their practice.

### **Dental therapy examination/refresher training**

Agreed (subject to being satisfied of external moderation procedures) that dental therapists who have been out of the workforce for between six and twelve years, should normally be required to successfully complete an approved dental therapy refresher course and sit and pass the NZDTREX written examination before registration or a practising certificate is issued.

### **Scope of adult dental therapy practice**

Received and considered a report on the current situation in Australia and United Kingdom in relation to dental therapists providing dental therapy care to adults.

Discussed the Dental Therapist Board's recommendation that the Council consult on the possibility of amending the current dental therapy scope of practice to provide that dental therapists may "provide care to adult patients within the general dental therapy scope of practice to the written prescription of a dentist who has examined the patient and developed the treatment plan."

Agreed to defer consideration of this issue and seek further information.

### **Eligibility of dentists to apply for registration in dental hygiene, therapy and technology scopes**

Noted the Dental Hygienist and the Dental Therapist Boards' views that dentists should continue to be eligible to apply for registration in the dental hygiene and therapy scopes of practice.

Noted that the Dental Technicians Board has still to consider this issue.

### **Ministry of Health letter regarding clinical examiners for the National Oral Health Survey**

Agreed to advise the Ministry of Health that:

- Council considers that the clinical examinations will need to be carried out by registered dentists holding a current practising certificate
- that examiners, irrespective of who they are trained by, should be dentists, in order to have sufficient training and expertise to conduct such comprehensive examinations and to make appropriate referrals
- dental therapists could possibly be used to examine children and adolescents within the bounds of their scope of practice but a dentist would need to be available to examine/record areas, which fall outside their scope
- Council would be comfortable with the Ministry recruiting recently retired dentist to the survey. However such dentists would need to apply for restoration to the register (if they have removed themselves from the register) and hold a current practising certificate
- the issue of legal protocols for referral is one for the Ministry to address. However using dentists as examiners would ensure the examiners have the knowledge and skill to recognise significant pathology and make appropriate referrals.

### **Codes of practice**

Noted that:

- NZDA is currently consulting on a revised Infection Control Code of Practice
- NZDA has agreed to the Council's suggested amendments to the Code of Practice on Transmissible Major Viral Infections (TMVI)
- a draft generic TMRI code for the other oral health practitioner groups is being consulted on
- a draft cultural competency code is being prepared
- the generic code for medical emergencies in dental practice has been amended to state that until a modular CORE 3 course is developed dental therapists, dental hygienists and clinical dental technicians can best meet the emergency care training requirements by undertaking the NZRC CORE Level 4 (modular) course.

### **Dental Technicians competence standards**

Approved the dental technology competence standards pending a review of all the competency standards and performance indicators later in the year.

### **Medical Council draft Statement on cosmetic procedures**

Agreed to seek the views of the NZDA on whether a similar statement on cosmetic procedures in dentistry should be developed.

### **Report on recertification issues**

Noted that:

- the first round of code of practice compliance monitoring for dentists and dental specialists was successfully undertaken during the 2006-2007 APC round
- compliance monitoring has been introduced for the other workforces in the 2007/08 APC renewal round
- Dr Dexter Bambery will undertake the practice visits with a practitioner from the same work group.

### **Dental Technician Board policy on recency of practice**

Approved this policy.

### **Accreditation of the AUT Bachelor of Health Science (Oral Health)**

Received the recommendations of the Accreditation review team on the supplementary report submitted by AUT. Agrees that Oral Health 1 paper should be internally reviewed for Semester 2 using the Oral Health Assessment paper (556609) as a benchmark.

### **RACDS OMS Programme**

Received and considered the RACDS Annual Report of March 2007 and the Accreditation Committee's recommendations.

Agreed to advise RACDS that Council was not satisfied with the progress made in meeting the conditions and will therefore continue to defer its accreditation decisions, until receipt of the interim report due on 1 October 2007.

### **University of Otago response to revised accreditation costs policy**

Received Otago's suggestion that if institutions were to bear the full costs of the accreditation process, then the period of accreditation should be extended to ten years. This would be in line with AMC accreditation of medical programmes and would go some way to alleviating the financial burden on the university.

Agreed to consider an accreditation timeframe of seven years for five-year degrees and five years for three-year degrees, but noted the need for flexibility of timeframes especially in situations of established, well performing programmes.

### **Meeting dates**

28 August 2007

26 November 2007