

Dental Council of New Zealand meeting – 26 - 27 May 2008 Summary of Decisions

Reappointment of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Dental Hygienist Board

The Council noted that Leslea Stapleton had been reappointed Chair, and Kirsty Jennings Deputy Chair, of the Dental Hygienist Board

Taking of radiographs by dental therapists, dental hygienist and orthodontic auxiliaries

The Council approved amendments to the detailed Scopes of Practice for dental therapists, dental hygienist and orthodontic auxiliaries to include taking of radiographs under the onsite supervision of a dentist or dental specialist who is licensed under the Radiation Protection Act 1965. The Council noted that this would correct an anomaly that been identified, whereby unregistered persons were able to take radiographs under the onsite supervision of a NRL radiography licence holder but that dental therapists, dental hygienists and orthodontic auxiliaries had previously had to be registered in an additional radiography scope to lawfully undertake this activity.

Statements on Cultural Competence

The Council approved a *Statement on best practices when providing care to Māori patients and their whānau*, which, along with a *Statement on Cultural Competence* approved at the Council's February meeting, will be published on the Council website

Control of Cross Infection (generic)

The Council noted that it had approved an updated Dentist code of practice on the Control of Cross Infection in August 2007; and considered and approved a generic code of practice on the Control of Cross Infection

Changes to the accreditation policy

The Council approved a revised policy on the accreditation of qualifications for registration; specifically that the Accreditation Committee protocol awards accreditation as follows:

- three year degree programme – five years;
- five year degree programme – seven years.

Approval of dental therapy add-on courses

The Council:

- noted that the Dental Therapist Board had considered the reviews and reports for the following courses at its April 2008 meeting:
 - Taranaki DHB stainless steel crowns course;
 - ARDS diagnostic radiography course; and
- approved the Taranaki DHB stainless steel crowns course as a course to equip registered oral health practitioners for registration in an additional scope of practice for five years (from 1 June 2008),

- approved the ARDS diagnostic radiography course as a course to equip registered oral health practitioners for registration in an additional scope of practice for five years (from 30 June 2007), subject to an interim report after 2.5 years

Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Australian Dental Council

The Council approved a draft MOU between the Australian Dental Council and the Dental Council of New Zealand to formalise the working relationship between the two bodies (in light of the two councils' ongoing contact and the commonality of issues faced)

Health Regulatory Authorities on New Zealand

The Council approved becoming a signatory to a MOU establishing the operating principles for the Health Regulatory Authorities on New Zealand (HRANZ) group, noting that the commitment would be on an annual basis. The Council noted that the advantages of participating in the group included:

- being able to influence the development of HRANZ;
- benefiting from joint projects;
- participation along with all other RAs that would enable HRANZ to demonstrate that RAs could work effectively together on two levels;

Meeting with the Minister of Health

The Council considered a report on the meeting that the Council Chairperson, CEO and Registrar had with the Minister of Health, David Cunliffe, on 12 March 2008.

Review of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003

The Council heard from Ministry of Health officials on the progress of the review of the Act, and the Ministry's initial assessment of stakeholders' views.

The Council later discussed issues it felt could be raised with the Ministry in response to the review discussion document expected to be released by the Ministry in July 2008. The Council established a committee comprising the Chair (Mary Livingston), Deputy Chair (Robert Love) and Helen Colebrook to develop a draft submission (incorporating a response to the discussion document) for the Council's consideration.

The Council noted that stakeholders will have views that they will wish to make known to the Ministry on their own account, but requested that stakeholder associations be invited to inform the Council of any matters that the stakeholders might assist the Council to be aware of as the Council developed its submission.

Changes to DCNZ Secretariat Staffing

The Council noted that

- William Whittaker had resigned as CEO of the Dental Council and Marie Warner had been appointed as acting CEO, effective 27 May 2008
- Liz Gilkison had resigned as Manager, Registration and Recertification Services