

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting – 5-6 March 2012

The Dental Council is the statutory body constituted under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (The Act) for maintaining self-regulation of the dental professions. Council endeavours to keep its key stakeholders up to date with key decisions. This document is a summary of Council's decisions from the meeting held in March 2012.

Strategic Planning 2012/13

Council conducted a strategic planning session on 5 March 2012 and updated its Mission, Values and Goals for the period 2012-2017.

Mission

- To provide public assurance that oral health practitioners are competent and fit to practise.

Vision

- To provide oral health practitioners with a framework to deliver best practice oral health care for the public of New Zealand

Goals

- Administer the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 consistently, fairly and effectively.
- Maintain an organisation that is efficient, responsive and sustainable.
- Promote and communicate Council's functions to stakeholders and the public of New Zealand.
- Promote best practice and well respected standards of oral health care.

The Dental Council's strategic plan for the period 2012-2017 which details strategic goals and projects can be found on the Council's website.

Dentist/Dental Specialist Recertification Working Group

The membership of the Dentist/Dental Specialist Recertification Working Group was approved and appointed. The membership of the working group consists of a Council member, 2 educationalists, 3 dentists and 2 specialists. An additional budget was approved to fund the working group's activities as relates to travel, accommodation and meeting services.

FRACDS(OMS) Prescribed qualification

Council issued the Gazette Notice on the prescribed qualifications for the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Scope of Practice by including the Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery) – FRACDS(OMS) as a prescribed qualification for the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Scope of Practice.

Orthodontic Auxiliary Prescribed Qualification

In December 2011 Council approved the gazetting of the three of the dental hygiene prescribed qualifications as prescribed qualifications for the Orthodontic Auxiliary scope of practice. An administrative oversight occurred with the transferring of this qualification from the dental hygiene scope of practice to the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice and the requirement for a Dental Council

approved course for *extra-oral radiography* was erroneously omitted. Council has undertaken a process to advise key stakeholders and registrants of Council's intention to correct this error. If no strong objections are raised within a four week comment period then council will re-Gazette the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice prescribed qualifications to include a Dental Council approved course in *extra-oral radiography*.

Dental Technician and Clinical Dental Technician Code of Practice

The Council sought independent clinical opinions on the taking of impressions that are in direct communication with the naso or oropharyngeal airway. The clinical opinions received were unanimous in its agreement that substantial risks are associated with these activities and clinical dental technicians should not be allowed to perform these activities without direct clinical supervision. The Dental Council is in agreement with the clinical opinions received and as such, no further changes to the draft code of practice of dental technology and clinical dental technology were necessary with regard to extra oral maxillofacial prostheses. Council approved the issue of a follow-up dental technician consultation.

Accreditation

Council accepted the ADC/Dental Council (NZ) Joint Accreditation Committee's recommendations following its meeting on 17 February 2012 on the following programmes and qualifications:

- AUT BHSc (Oral Health) – Prescribed qualification for the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice and update to the prescribed qualifications for the dental hygiene scope of practice to include orthodontic procedures.
- University of Otago BOH – satisfactory submission of the 2011 annual report
- University of Otago BDS – satisfactory submission of the 2011 annual report
- University of Otago MDS/MBChB(OMS) – satisfactory submission of the 2011 annual report
- University of Otago Technology Programmes – satisfactory submission of the 2011 annual report
- NZAO Orthodontic Auxiliary Training Programme

Council also approved the revised *Monitoring Accredited Dental and Oral Health Programmes Annual Reports* document that will be used for future annual reporting for all accredited programmes.

Approval of Courses

Council approved the University of Otago Local Anaesthesia course for dental hygienists, for a period of five years, ending 31 March 2017. Council requested the University of Otago to change the course entry criteria to specify that hygienists with a limited scope of practice (previous Dental Auxiliaries) cannot enter the course as Local Anaesthesia is not part of their approved limited scopes of practice

Competence and Recertification Order Fee

Council approved the methodology applied in setting fees for competence/recertification programmes, supervision, mentoring and urine testing. Council approved these fees to be consulted with stakeholders.

NZDREX applicants with assessment of eligibility submitted prior to 4 November 2009

The policy for the assessment of eligibility of applications submitted prior to 4 November 2009 is due to expire on 2 August 2012. At that time, any applicants under this policy that have not completed the examination process will be required to transition to the policy for applicants with assessments of eligibility submitted after 4 November 2009. Council resolved that no exceptions would be granted to the transition date.