

## Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting – 13 April 2015

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The Dental Council is the statutory body constituted under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (The Act) to maintain the health and safety of members of the public by providing mechanisms to ensure that health practitioners are competent and fit to practise. Council endeavours to keep its key stakeholders up to date with key decisions.

This document is a summary of Council's decisions from the meetings held in April 2015.

### MOU with the Australian Dental Council

Council approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Dental Council and the Australian Dental Council (ADC).

### Report on Review of Policies

Council is developing a strategic policy framework. Consequently a review of all Council's policies is being undertaken. Council engaged consultants O'Connor Sinclair to assist with the project. O'Connor Sinclair had completed their review and their report was considered by Council. Due to the significant amount of work required, and the number of policies to consider, the authority to consider the changes and make recommendations to Council was delegated to a Council subcommittee.

Council resolved that the Audit and Risk Management Committee would consider the new set of policy documents and report back to Council with:

- assurance that the new set retained relevant policy and can be endorsed;
- assurance that policies identified through the review as outdated, incorrect or 'not policy' could be safely rescinded by Council; and
- recommendations regarding an option to split policy and operational processes/procedures into two separate documents.

### National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB) Examiners Appointments

In accordance to the collaborative agreement between the Council and NDEB, NDEB would appoint one member nominated by the Council to its Examinations Committee.

To carry out the examination in New Zealand, NDEB would also be appointing a number of roles including:

- A pool of Dental Examiners (approx. 10-12 members) that NDEB Examinations Committee would draw resources from.
- Assessment of Clinical Skills (ACS) Assessment Supervisor
- ACS Assistant Assessment Supervisor
- ACS Assessment Coordinator

Council resolved to appoint Professor Robert Love as the New Zealand dental academic on the NDEB Examinations Committee.

The following New Zealand dental examiners were appointed:

- Dr Peter Cathro
- Dr Harsha De Silva
- Mr Graeme Dixon
- Dr Rami Farah
- Dr Susan Gorrie
- Dr Suzanne Hanlin
- Dr David Healey
- Dr Bridget Heer
- Dr Karl Lyons
- Dr Anita Nolan
- Dr Donald Schwass
- Dr Ponnambalam Yoganathan

The Council also nominated a further group of practitioners that would be contacted to confirm their willingness to be dental examiners.

Council agreed that the ACS Assessment Supervisor and ACS Assistant Supervisors roles should be University of Otago personnel, and the Chief Executive would approach the Dean of the Dental Faculty for the appointees. The appointees would be approved by Drs Robin Whyman and Andrew Gray.

### Oral Health Therapy Scope of Practice - consultation submissions

The consultation document on a proposed Oral Health Therapy Scope of Practice was issued to stakeholders in November 2014 and closed on 20 February 2015. The Council acknowledged the good response to the consultation with 86 submissions received, and the comprehensive and substantive nature of the comments offered. Council acknowledged the detailed nature of the comments and the significant amount of time that it would take to systematically work through all the comments and formulate considered views and recommendations.

Accordingly, Council established a sub-committee of Council members to consider the submission comments in detail and provide the Council with associated recommendations on the various proposals. The sub-committee membership comprises:

- Lyndie Foster Page – Chair
- Leslea Eilenberg – dental hygienist
- Kate Hazlett - laymember
- Minnie McGibbon – dental therapist
- Robin Whyman – dental specialist

It was agreed that stakeholders would be issued with an update of the next steps in the process, and be thanked for their valued submissions.

### Oral Medicine Targeted Information gathering

In 2013 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.

To inform the issue of whether a medical degree was required for the oral medicine scope of practice prescribed qualifications, the Council conducted a targeted preliminary information gathering to inform it on a position for the purpose of further consultation with all its stakeholders.

The preliminary information gathering process targeted the following groups:

- Oral medicine specialists registered in New Zealand
- Professional bodies and Colleges in Australasia with expertise and an interest in oral medicine
- A number of educational institutions offering oral medicine programmes in the UK, United States, Canada, and Australia to allow a comparison of the various jurisdictions.

The Council approached 19 international universities and the University of Otago for information on the issue of oral medicine training requirements. Seven responses were received, five of which were from United Kingdom training institutions, and one from the United States and Australia. Four professional bodies responded, and all five registered oral medicine specialists submitted their views.

The Council considered the most appropriate approach to progress consideration of this matter to achieve a decision on the original consultation proposal. To further inform the discussion it was agreed that additional information from the University of Otago DClinDent (oral medicine) programme would be requested.

### Transmissible Major Viral Infections Code of Practice

The Standards Review Standing Committee considered the updated draft TMVI code of practice at a teleconference on 16 March 2015. The laymember on the committee, was specifically requested to consider the disclosure obligations to a patient in the event of an injury to the practitioner while performing an exposure-prone procedure (EPP), as expressed in sections 10.2 & 10.3 of the draft TMVI code. A follow-up teleconference of the committee was held on 30 March 2015, where this matter and the legal opinion obtained from Claro Law were further considered. Some minor wording changes were suggested to the Council.

The Council considered the position put forward by the committee, in particular whether a patient should be informed of a TMVI infected practitioner's status following exposure of the patient to the blood of the practitioner as a result of an EPP incident.

The Council agreed to defer its decision on a TMVI infected practitioner's notification obligation until the advice requested from the Health and Disability Commissioner and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner has been received for consideration.

### Cross Infection working group report and draft code of practice

The Cross Infection working group was appointed in November 2014 by the Council to further investigate and consider the proposed changes required to the Council's Control of Cross Infection in Dental Practice codes of practice.

The working group held meetings in December, February and March. Council considered the working group report, recommendations and draft Infection Prevention and Control code of practice.

Council accepted the recommendations of the working group and the draft Infection Prevention and Control code of practice; and agreed to issue the draft code to the Standards Review Committee, prior to Council's finalisation for consultation.

### Standards Framework for Oral Health Practitioners – Follow-up consultation

The Standards Review Committee considered the updated draft Standards Framework at its teleconference on 16 March 2015.

The committee agreed with the proposed changes and the updated draft Standards Framework, with the requested amendment to the Compliance section to include the requirement for documenting the reasons why compliance to the standards could not be achieved.

Council approved the draft consultation document for issuing to all stakeholders.

## Annual Report – AUT BHSc

The ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee considered the annual report and site evaluation team chair recommendation at its teleconference meeting on 11 March 2015.

Council agreed to close recommendations R10-1, R10-2, R11-2, R13-1, and that the Auckland University of Technology Bachelor of Health Science in Oral Health 2014 annual report be accepted as satisfactory in continuing to meet the accreditation standards.

## Annual Report - University of Otago – Bachelor of Dental Surgery and Honours

The ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee considered the annual report and the SET chair's recommendations at its teleconference meeting on 11 March 2015.

Council resolved that recommendation 5-1 would remain open for reporting next year; and that the Bachelor of Dental Surgery and Honours 2014 annual report be accepted as satisfactory in continuing to meet the accreditation standards.

## Annual Report - University of Otago – Doctor of Clinical Dentistry

The ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee considered the annual report at its teleconference meeting on 11 March 2015.

Council resolved to close recommendations R9-1, R9-2, R9-3, R20-1, R20-2, R20-3 and R21; and that the program's 2014 annual report be accepted as satisfactory in continuing to meet the accreditation standards.

## Annual Report – University of Otago - Postgraduate Diploma of Clinical Dental Technology

The ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee considered the annual report at its teleconference meeting on 11 March 2015.

Council resolved that the Postgraduate Diploma of Clinical Dental Technology 2014 annual report be accepted as satisfactory in continuing to meet the accreditation standards.

## Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (RACDS) (OMS) Peer Review Report

The ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee considered the annual report at its teleconference meeting on 11 March 2015.

Council resolved the RACDS (OMS) peer review report undertaken by Prof Mark Wong, be accepted as meeting the accreditation condition placed on the FRACDS (OMS) programme. The programme now has full accreditation until 31 December 2018.

## Accreditation Report

Secretariat staff members from the Australian Dental Council and Dental Council (NZ) held an operational workshop on 25 February 2015 to plan, discuss and progress some of the development work required in preparation for the implementation of the revised accreditation standards by January 2016.

Council also considered the accreditation report on the ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee meeting held 11 March 2015.

Council approved the:

1. Core documentary evidence requirements for the Program Accreditation Standards.
2. Revised annual report template, subject to the changes requested by the ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee.