

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meetings held 7 and 16 December 2015

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The Dental Council (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 December 2015.

Council appointments

Wendy Tozer was reappointed for another term on Council to end on 10 December 2018.

The Minister of Health also appointed Karen Ferns as a lay member and Ms Gillian Tahi as dental therapist to the Council.

Governance Manual

Council adopted a new Governance Manual that will be operationalised in early 2016.

Communications Strategy – Senate SHJ Report

Earlier this year, SenateSHJ had developed a communications strategy to support the Council's strategic plan. The strategic objective was to position the Dental Council to be proactive, effective and an engaged regulator with the dental profession and general public.

As part of the strategy, Senate conducted a review of all current Council communications and in November, carried out an online survey to a sample of oral health practitioners and key stakeholders (2,250). A total of 673 responses was received.

Council noted the recommendations of the Senate report and requested an updated report to include detailed analysis of the survey results.

Practice Standards – process review

At its September 2015 meeting, Council supported a change to its current governance operating model and adopted in principle, a risk-based governance operating model.

The Council has faced some stakeholder criticism of the current process (operating since June 2013) that Council's practice standards were not relevant and up-to-date, and the development of practice standards was slow and costly.

As a result of Council's new operating direction, Council has adopted a new practice standards review process where the standards development will reside with the Council secretariat.

Council agreed to disband the Standards Review Standing Committee effective December 2015.

Updated practice standards risk assessment

The Council considered and accepted the proposed changes to the list of practice standards; the updated Regulatory risk matrix; and the consequential changes to the practice standards review schedule.

Accordingly, Council agreed to:

1. Remove the following from the review schedule as they would be proposed as new standards:
 - Child/adult protection
 - Ethical conduct
 - Multidisciplinary management and referral
 - Ongoing competence

2. Consider incorporating the principles of the following practice standards into a single practice standard, potentially the New and advanced areas of practice - practice standard:
 - Tooth Bleaching & Restricted activities
 - Cosmetic dentistry
 - Digital technologies
 - Cone Beam Computed Tomography

3. That the following practice standards would be reviewed:
2015/16:
 - Conscious sedation
2016/17:
 - New and advanced areas of practice
 - Cultural competence and Maori care
 - Professional behaviour
 - Informed consent
2017/18:
 - Record keeping
 - Professional working relationships.

Medical emergencies – oxygen requirement

The Council resolved to extend the exemption to hold oxygen and the associated equipment to dentist/dental specialists not administering sedation, dental hygienists, dental therapists, and orthodontic auxiliaries who have not yet been required to complete their new CORE Level 4 resuscitation training before the 30 September 2015, until completion of the practitioner's CORE Level 4 resuscitation training, but by no later than 30 September 2016.

At its October 2015 meeting, the Council considered a concern expressed by the New Zealand Institute of Dental Technologists about "keeping and administering of oxygen by clinical dental technicians".

After careful consideration the Council agreed it would not revise its original decision for clinical dental technicians to keep oxygen, to enable practitioners to use it when required in the management of a medical emergency.

However, the Council acknowledged there were inconsistencies in resuscitation training courses offered, in particular, on the appropriate use of emergency drugs. The same concern can be extended to other oral health professionals. In particular, those practitioners whose resuscitation training levels have been increased from Level 3 to Level 4 – being dental hygienists, dental therapists, clinical dental technicians and orthodontic auxiliaries.

Oral Health Therapy Council sub-committee

Council noted that the next meeting of the subcommittee was scheduled on 18 January 2016. Following this, the committee's recommendations and associated documents would be considered at the February 2016 Council meeting.

Australian Dental Council (ADC) Consultation – Professional Competencies

Council noted the ADC consultation on the reviewed Professional Competencies of the Newly Qualified Dental Hygienist, Dental Therapist, Oral Health Therapist and Dentist.

University of Otago DClinDent (oral surgery) accreditation

Council resolved to accept the ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee's recommendation and granted accreditation to the University of Otago Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (oral surgery) programme for a period of five years, ending 31 December 2020.

University of Otago Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology

The Council resolved to accept the ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee's recommendation to re-accredit the University of Otago Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology for five years, ending 31 December 2020.

2016-17 Annual Budget and APC and other fees and Disciplinary Levies

Council approved the 2016/17 budgets non-dentist APC fees and levies and other fees would be consulted upon with stakeholders in December 2015 and January 2016.

Orthodontic working group appointment

Andrea Jamison, lawyer was appointed as the children's advocate representative to the Orthodontic working group.

Policies update

Council approved the amended Expenses and Reimbursement Policy and Level of Reserves Policy.

2016 Audit and Risk Management (ARM) Committee meeting dates

Council approved the date changes to the 2016 ARM Committee as:

- Wednesday 27 January
- Monday 30 May
- Monday 26 September