

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting – 2 March 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 March 2015.

Cross Infection Code of Practice

Council resolved to issue a statement advising all stakeholders of Council's review of the Cross Infection Code of Practice.

Strategic Priorities 2015-2020

Council agreed the following strategic priorities for 2015-2020:

- a) Grow understanding of, and engagement with the Dental Council;
- b) Introduce an effective, quality assured framework for ongoing practitioner competence;
- c) Ensure we have the policies, systems, skills and processes to deliver our functions – smarter, more consistently, and in accordance with our values and principles; and
- d) Review and refresh our governance model.
- e) Complete and embed standards of clinical competence, cultural competence, and ethical conduct.

MedSys

Following consideration of the business case and the review involved on the feasibility of migration of the Dental Council to the Medical Council system (Medsys). Council agreed in principle to proceed with exploring MedSys as a database option, subject to a detailed cost model options with Dental Council migrating to MedSys on its own; and the second model if Pharmacy Council joins the Dental Council. In addition, the project manager was tasked to determine from Medical Council, whether an RA could utilize a copy of the MedSys system but independently manage and maintain it. If so, confirm whether there would be any intellectual property cost for MedSys.

MOU with Dental Board of Australia

Council agreed to investigate developing a joint MOU with the Dental Board of Australia and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) that would include sharing of information.

Council appointment to the Audit and Risk Management Committee

David Stephens resigned from ARM Committee on 19 February 2015 leaving a vacancy on the committee. Council appointed Wendy Tozer as laymember to the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

TMVI Code of Practice consultation submissions

Council considered the TMVI consultation submissions received. Following the analyses of the submission comments, the clinical related areas (compared to policy or operational matters) of comments were identified, and the TMVI working group was requested to provide expert advice to the Council on these submission comments. The working group also sought additional expert advice on certain areas from subject-matter experts.

Following consideration of the consultation submissions and the TMVI working group proposed changes as a result of the submission comments, the Council accepted the proposed changes to the draft TMVI Code of Practice, subject to a minor wording amendment.

The Council considered that the changes accepted related mostly to process and “lowering” the safe levels for practice - as recommended by the subject-matter experts, and it agreed that a follow-up consultation would not be required.

The amended draft code would be presented to the Standards Review Committee for any further input, prior to Council’s finalisation.

Standards Framework discussion forum feedback

The Standards Framework discussion forum was held on 13 February 2015 in Wellington. Attendees were a good representation of the oral health sector and other key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health, Health and Disability Commissioner, and the Accident Compensation Corporation. The forum were given an overview of Council’s statutory obligations, especially on setting of standards. The forum discussed the proposed changes to the draft Standards Framework.

Council considered the proposed changes to the draft Standards Framework following consideration of the forum discussions, and approved the proposed changes. The updated draft would be presented to the Standards Review Committee for consideration, prior to issuing for follow-up consultation.