

## Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meetings on 8 and 24 August 2016

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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 August 2016.

### The proposed 2016/17 Dentist and Dental Specialist Annual Practising Certificate fee and Disciplinary Levy

Council approved the gazetting the Dentist and Dental Specialist 2016/17 APC Fee of \$870.83 (GST exclusive) and Disciplinary Levy of \$96.34 (GST exclusive) for the practising period 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017 effective from 1 October 2016.

### Oral Health Therapy Scope of Practice

63 submissions were received on the follow-up consultation on the proposed oral health therapy scope of practice.

Council considered the detailed analysis of the follow-up consultation submissions, and the recommendations in response to specific submission concerns or suggestions, for consideration

Council reaffirmed its consultation positions and agreed on the following:

#### Proposed oral health therapy scope of practice activities

From a patient safety perspective, the Council confirmed that restorative activities on patients 18 years and over under prescription of a dentist, would not form part of the proposed oral health therapy scope of practice.

#### Consultative professional relationship

- A consultative professional relationship between the oral health therapist and one or more dentists or dental specialists is required for the practise of oral health therapy, to provide a clearly identifiable and reliable means for the oral health therapist to seek professional advice, when needed.
- No written agreement is required for legal compliance purposes, but this did not preclude practitioners to have a signed agreement.
- The draft guidance document for the establishment and maintenance of the consultative professional relationship be accepted, and published by the Council as part of the implementation roll-out.

## Supervision levels

- The following orthodontic activities will be moved from direct clinical supervision to being performed within the consultative professional relationship:
  - tracing cephalometric radiographs
  - fabricating retainers and undertaking simple laboratory procedures of an orthodontic nature.
- Council agreed that the proposal for the practise of oral health therapy within a consultative professional relationship was appropriate, with the exception of the listed orthodontic activities that must be performed on-site as directed by a dentist/dental specialist.
- The supervision for the administration of local anaesthetic remained unchanged, that is, performed within a consultative professional relationship.

## Prescribed qualifications

Council agreed to:

- End-date the two oral health programmes as prescribed qualifications for the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice.
- Remove oral health graduates that register as an oral health therapist from the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice, where relevant, as the orthodontic activities were covered in the oral health therapy scope of practice.

## Registration transition

- All oral health graduates with a University of Otago Bachelor of Oral Health, obtained since 2009; or an Auckland University of Technology Bachelor of Health Science in oral health, obtained since 2008, are eligible for registration in the oral health therapy scope of practice subject to meeting the recency of practice and/or fitness for registration requirements - as it relates to the individual practitioner's scenario.
- All eligible oral health graduates, currently registered in both the dental hygiene and dental therapy scopes of practice and hold a valid practising certificate in both scopes of practice, would automatically be registered in the oral health therapy scope of practice and issued with a corresponding APC.
- No time limit would apply for eligible practitioners to register in the oral health therapy scope of practice, if not automatically transferred.

Decisions relating to the gazette date and implementation aspects of the scope of practice were deferred until consideration of a comprehensive implementation plan. It was envisaged that this plan would be presented at the October meeting, and further information will be available to all stakeholders.

## University of Otago accreditation review process and schedule

Council considered a revised accreditation process for the University of Otago, to facilitate a more rationalised and streamlined approach to accreditation reviews of their multiple programmes.

Council resolved to:

1. Approve the revised accreditation process and review schedule for the University of Otago accredited programmes, by:
  - dividing the programme reviews into two groups – undergraduate programmes and the clinical dental technology programme, and the dentistry postgraduate programmes

- Reschedule the postgraduate review during 2018 and the undergraduate review during 2019.
2. Approve extending the accreditation periods for the following programmes by two years:
- Master of Community Dentistry (31/12/2018)
  - Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (31/12/2018)
    - Endodontics
    - Oral and maxillofacial surgery
    - Oral pathology
    - Oral medicine
    - Orthodontics
    - Paediatric dentistry
    - Periodontology
    - Prosthodontics
    - Special needs dentistry
    - Oral surgery
  - Master of Dental Surgery (MDS)/Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) in Oral Medicine (31/12/2018)
  - Bachelor of Dental Surgery (31/12/2019)
  - Bachelor of Dental Surgery (Honours) (31/12/2019)
3. Approve shortening the accreditation periods for the following programmes by one year, to:
- Bachelor of Dental Technology (31/12/2019)
  - Bachelor of Dental Technology (Honours) (31/12/2019)
  - Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology (31/12/2019).

### Australian Dental Council (ADC) monitoring framework

Earlier this year, ADC reviewed its accreditation monitoring framework with the aim to separate the monitoring activities from requirements for accreditation.

Council agreed to adopt the updated ADC monitoring framework as a joint ADC/Dental Council (NZ) accreditation committee monitoring framework, with the exception of the examination validation component for New Zealand programmes.

Council also approved a revised review process for New Zealand programme annual reports as follows:

- That a sub-group review the annual reports, and make a recommendation(s) to the ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee. The sub-group will comprise of the previous site evaluation team chair, ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee Chair, one New Zealand accreditation committee member (not the Council chair or dental academic where a conflict of interest exists), Council's Chief Executive, and Standards and Accreditation Manager.
- That an annual monitoring report be presented to the accreditation committee, with copies of the complete annual reports and any additional information submitted available.
- That the accreditation committee make a recommendation(s) to the Council on the New Zealand programme annual reports. The annual monitoring report and accreditation committee's recommendation(s) would be presented to the Council, with copies of the complete annual reports and any additional information submitted available to the Council.

## Governance Manual and Expenses and Reimbursement Policy

Council approved the revised Expenses and Reimbursement Policy. The policy was amended to include information on information technology expenditure. The Governance Manual was also updated to reflect the changes of the expenses and reimbursement policy.