

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting 9 February 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 meeting held in February 2016.

Council appointments

In November - December 2015, the Minister of Health Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman appointed the following members to the Dental Council:

- Ms Charlotte Neame (dental hygienist) appointed to 17 December 2018
- Dr Jocelyn Logan (dentist) appointed to 17 December 2018
- Mr John Aarts (Clinical Dental Technician & Dental Technician) was reappointed to 10 December 2018.
- Ms Kate Hazlett (laymember) reappointed to 8 April 2019.

Council also elected the following positions:

- Dr Robin Whyman as Chair; and
- Brigadier Andrew Gray as Deputy Chair of the Council.

Council Committee appointments

The Council appointed the following members to:

Audit and Risk Management Committee:

- John Aarts

CPD Advisory Committee:

- Charlotte Neame
- Gillian Tahī

Oral Health Therapy Council subcommittee review

The Oral Health Therapy subcommittee held three meetings in July and November 2015 and January 2016.

The committee considered the:

- Consultation submission responses
- Executive commentary on the key themes identified within the submission responses
- Detailed analysis of the submission comments.

The committee also considered additional information requested from the University of Otago Bachelor of Oral Health programme, in particular, the ability of the programme's oral health graduates to perform restorative activities for patients over the age of 18 years under prescription of a dentist, and their ability in caries diagnosis.

The committee also considered a small amount of additional literature on the clinical care outcomes for adults treated by dental therapists or oral health therapists. The committee noted that the favourable patient outcomes reported were mostly attributable to experienced practitioners and so direct extrapolation of the outcomes to all oral health graduates would not be appropriate.

The Council accepted the recommendations of the committee, and agreed that the draft consultation document, updated competencies and consultative professional relationship guidance document would be considered at the March 2016 Council meeting.

Infection prevention and control practice standard consultation submissions

Dr Hugh Trengrove attended the meeting to present the New Zealand Dental Association's (NZDA) submission on the Infection Prevention and Control Practice Standard consultation.

NZDA's submission was acknowledged by the Council and it confirmed that this would be considered in conjunction with the other submissions.

The Council noted the 22 submissions received on the draft Infection Prevention and Control Practice Standard. The majority of the responses agreed with the proposed practice standard, with some changes proposed. Overall the feedback was mostly positive and constructive.

Council agreed that the submission comments would be further considered by the Senior Business Development Advisor and Professional Advisor - Standards and Policy, with the assistance of Andrew Gray and Charlotte Neame for any clinical advice. Their recommendations on the submission comments would then be considered by the Council at its next meeting. The need for a follow-up consultation would be determined by the level of proposed changes to the consultation draft.

Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) Fellowship program in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology accreditation

Council accepted the ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee's recommendation, from its 28 January 2016 meeting, to grant accreditation to the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Fellowship program in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology until 31 December 2018.

The accreditation period granted was a shorter period to the normal five years allowed for postgraduate programmes, to align with the Australian Dental Council accreditation date, and to facilitate a possible joint review. This approach was driven by the expectation for regulators to limit regulatory burdens.

2016-17 Annual Budget APC and Other Fees, Disciplinary Levies Consultation

Council noted the 12 submissions received from the 2016-17 Annual Budget APC and Other Fees, Disciplinary Levies Consultation.

Some of the submissions expressed concerns about the high cost of the APC and requested the Council to consider a reduced APC fee for part time practitioners.

Council approved:

- The gazetting on 3 March 2016 or earlier, the 2016/17 APC Fees and Disciplinary Levies (Non Dentists) (GST exclusive) for the practising period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 effective from 1 April 2016.
- The gazetting on 3 March 2016 or earlier, the 2016/17 fees (GST exclusive) with respect to Examinations, Registrations, Competence programmes, Fitness to Practise, and other fees effective from 1 April 2016.
- The 2016/17 budgets.

Council declined the request for a reduced APC fee for part time practitioners. However the secretariat would investigate the matter further, and provide recommendations to the Audit and Risk Management Committee for consideration.

[Audit and Risk Management Committee Terms of Reference – Tenure of the independent member](#)

Council approved the revised Terms of Reference for the Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARM) and the reappointment of Brent Kennerley (Partner at Grant Thornton) to the ARM for a further three year term.