

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting 4 July 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 July 2016.

Consultation – Dental specialist prescribed qualification amendments

In 2015, the following dental specialist programmes were reviewed and granted accreditation:

- University of Otago Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Oral Surgery (until 31 December 2020)
- Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Fellowship in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology (until 31 December 2018).¹

These programmes were not previously accredited by the Council.

The Council was satisfied that the programmes met the educational standards to ensure competent graduates to practise oral surgery and oral pathology, respectively, in New Zealand.

In order to recognise these accredited programmes as prescribed qualifications for the respective scopes of practice through a gazette notice, sections 12 and 14 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 require the Council to consult on the gazette notice, detailing the proposed changes to the prescribed qualifications.

Subject to confirming the proposed rewording of the Australian prescribed qualifications with the Dental board of Australia, Council approved to issue the consultation document on the proposed changes to the prescribed qualifications to all stakeholders in July 2016.

Sedation Practice Standard

Subject to some further amendments, Council approved the draft consultation document on the sedation practice standard to be issued to all stakeholders in July 2016.

General Dental Council (GDC) validation of accreditation programmes

In 2015, the Council and the General Dental Council (GDC) agreed to a validation process. The objective was for Council to validate the continuing New Zealand registration of dentists and dental hygienists qualified from GDC accredited programmes in the United Kingdom.

Validation is the process where the Council assures itself that international jurisdictions previously recognised as equivalent to New Zealand, are still comparable to the entry-level standards for

¹ The shorter accreditation period granted was to align with the Australian accreditation period to facilitate ongoing joint accreditation reviews, wherever possible.

registration in New Zealand. These jurisdictions were recognised as equivalent through the gazetting of its accredited programmes as prescribed qualifications for registration in specific scopes of practice in New Zealand.

The New Zealand scopes of practice that recognised a GDC accredited degree as a prescribed qualification for registration are:

- General dental practice
- Dental hygiene.

The validation process included:

- Comparisons of entry-level standards. This included mapping of accreditation standards, scopes of practice and profession specific competencies/learning outcomes.
- Review of the accreditation processes and governance on decision making.
- Observation of the GDC's quality assurance process of one of its accredited programmes, to observe the implementation of the GDC standards, processes and decision making.

Council noted the report on the GDC's quality assurance process and resolved that the GDC's entry standards for registration were equivalent to New Zealand's entry standards, and its accreditation processes and governance were appropriate for ongoing recognition of the GDC-accredited programmes for registration in the general dental and dental hygiene scopes of practice.

Council further agreed that it would investigate the recognition of UK dental therapy and/or joint dental therapy/dental hygiene programmes.

[Dentist APC Fee & Disciplinary Levy 2016/17](#)

Council approved the proposed 2016/17 Dentist APC fee of \$870.83 and dentist disciplinary levy of \$96.34 (GST exclusive), to be consulted on in July 2016, prior to gazetting to take effect from 1 October 2016.