

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting 7 March 2016

Level 10
101–103 The Terrace
Wellington
New Zealand

PO Box 10–448
Wellington 6143
New Zealand

Tel: +64 4 499 4820
Fax: +64 4 499 1668
inquiries@dcnz.org.nz

www.dcnz.org.nz

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 March 2016.

International Society of Dental Regulators (ISDR)

The International Society of Dental Regulators (ISDR) Accreditation Standards consultation document was issued on 24 February 2016 to member jurisdictions and non-ISDR members. Consultation feedback would be considered by the executive committee at the general assembly on 20 May before the accreditation standards are finalised.

Due to the Chief Executive's involvement as President of ISDR and a member of the ISDR Accreditation working group, Council agreed that the New Zealand members of the joint ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee – Robert Love, Lyndie Foster Page and Robin Whyman would review the draft submission before consideration at the April 2016 Council meeting.

Review of recertification policy

Rebekah Jenner, Consultant at O'Connor Sinclair was commissioned to lead the review of Council's recertification policy. Council noted the progress of the review, and discussed some of the options proposed on the different ways that the current policy could potentially be changed to better meet the policy objectives. This ranged from improvements to the existing approach through to an entirely new framework.

Council noted that a detailed paper with a short-list of policy options would be presented at the next meeting.

Oral Health Therapy Scope of Practice

The Council considered and discussed the draft follow up consultation on the proposed oral health therapy scope of practice document. This was approved to be issued to all stakeholders for consultation, subject to the some minor amendments.

As part of the consultation, Council agreed to hold some webinars and a forum with some of the dental associations to discuss the proposed scope of practice.

Infection prevention and control practice standard

The Council considered the proposed amendments to the draft Infection Prevention and Control practice standard.

Council agreed to place the responsibility for determining the appropriate disposal of controlled waste on the practitioner, through investigating local council waste policies/bylaws and services/facilities available to them.

The updated draft Infection Prevention and Control Practice Standard was approved to come into effect on 1 April 2016, with the exception of sterilisers requiring a data recording device and/or printer by 1 April 2018, and subject to the verification of the title "*cold sterilisation*".

Council agreed that no follow up consultation was required, as no changes to the standards have been made that would impact on practitioners' obligations.