

18 December 2012

Dear practitioner,

Outcome on the follow-up consultation on the Specialty of Oral Surgery in New Zealand

Following Council's decision to retain both the Oral Surgery and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery scopes of practice, Council issued a follow-up consultation document, submissions on which closed on 2 November 2012.

The purpose of the consultation was to invite stakeholders to submit comments on possible amendments to the scopes of practice for Oral Surgery and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. The changes proposed by the Oral Surgery Working Party were to the definitions of the scopes of practice in the areas of non-surgical management of patients.

Council considered the submissions at its December 2012 meeting. The majority of respondents did not agree to the proposed changes, the consensus being that the original intent of providing greater clarity to the public was not achieved. Council agreed that the current definitions were in line with generally accepted international definitions.

Council resolved that the definitions for the Oral Surgery and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery scopes of practice will remain as they are currently gazetted^{1,2} that is:

Oral Surgery

Oral Surgery Specialists practise in the branch of dentistry concerned with the diagnosis and surgical management of conditions affecting the oral and dento-alveolar tissues.

Specialist Oral Surgery is undertaken by a dental practitioner who possesses additional postgraduate qualifications, training and experience recognised by the Council as appropriate for registration.

¹ New Zealand Gazette No 81, 20 May 2005 p1931.

² New Zealand Gazette No 194, 11 December 2009 p 4449.

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Specialists practise in that part of surgery which deals with the diagnosis, surgical and adjunctive treatment of diseases, injuries and defects of the human jaws and associated structures.

Specialist Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is undertaken by a dental practitioner who possesses additional postgraduate qualifications, training and experience recognised by the Council as appropriate for registration.

This concludes the consultations on the Specialty of Oral Surgery in New Zealand, as initiated in January 2012.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warner".

Marie Warner
Chief Executive