

12 September 2016

Marie Warner
Chief Executive
Dental Council
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Email: consultations@dcnz.org.nz

Dear Marie

Response to Dental Council consultation on proposes changed to prescribed qualifications

Thank you for your invitation to provide feedback on the Dental Council's consultation regarding changes to prescribed qualifications.

The Pharmacy Council congratulates you on undertaking educational reviews of two dental specialist programmes in 2015. It is great to hear that accreditation has been granted to two programmes not previously accredited by the Dental Council.

The Pharmacy Council agrees with the proposed gazetting of the University of Otago DClinDent oral surgery programme as a prescribed qualification for the oral surgery scope of practice. The joint Australian and New Zealand Dental Council accreditation process utilises a robust review process and to have achieved a five-year accreditation period signals a high quality educational program that meets the standards required to assure the New Zealand public that oral surgeons with this qualification are competent to provide the standard of patient care required.

The Pharmacy Council agrees with the proposed gazetting of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Fellowship in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology as a prescribed qualification for the oral pathology scope of practice. In recognition of the small number or registered oral pathologists in Australasia it is highly appropriate for this qualification, which has already been accredited in Australia for a number of years, to undergo an accreditation process to be recognised as a prescribed qualification in New Zealand. It is noted that the shorter accreditation period is to align with the Australian accreditation cycle to facilitate joint reviews in the future.

We agree with the proposed changes to the description of the Australian prescribed qualifications as reflected in Attachment 1 of the consultation document which are aimed to reflect the current function the Dental Board of Australia has in approving programmes of study for the dental profession. It is noted that these amendments are purely administrative. Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation.

Yours sincerely



Michael Pead
Chief Executive