

Page 2: Information about the person or organisation completing this submission

Q1 This submission was completed by:

Name

Jeffrey Joy

Q2 Are you making this submission

as a registered practitioner

Q3 Please tell us which part of the sector your submission represents

a registered dentist or dental specialist

Page 3: Area one: new core recertification programme

Q4 What, if anything, do you like about our proposed core recertification programme?

I like the fact that there is awareness the recertification process for new graduates needs to be amended.

Q5 Is there anything about our proposed core recertification programme you would change?

Yes,

Please explain.:

Identify the reasons you feel the recertification process needs to be amended. For example, you would not change the recertification process if you felt the current system was adequate. Do you feel the public is at risk with the level of training for new graduates or overseas trained dentists? Do you feel the level of training from New Zealand's dental school is adequate? How are you comparing the capabilities of new graduates? Is the comparison based on the overall oral health of New Zealand relative to other parts of the world or is it based on the training level of New Zealand dentists compared to other parts of the world? If any of the above are relevant, how are the related statistics for those measurements compiled or deemed appropriate?

Q6 Do you support our proposal to change the recertification cycle to 12 months?

No,

Please explain.:

If you are referring to the cycle of required CPD points required, then no. There are not enough courses available to fulfil the current continuing education process each year, especially for those dentists who reside and practice in areas outside Auckland.

Q7 Do you think our proposed core recertification programme should include a requirement for practitioners to complete an online open-book assessment of their technical and clinical knowledge and skills?

No,

Please explain.:

A didactic evaluation of a practical skill is useless. As opposed to letting newly trained dentists try their recently acquired skills and then later determine if those skills meet an unknown criteria, be sure each dentist has the required skills PRIOR to granting them a license to practice. In the United States, a person may not PRACTICE dentistry until they have passed a licensing examination. When I graduated dental school in 1987, the dental board examination had a 50% pass rate. That meant that even though a dental licensing candidate went through 4 years of undergraduate training, and then a subsequent 4 year graduate training program (with no summers off) only on half of them were deemed fit to practice dentistry based on the licensing examination. In New Zealand, participants in the dental school training program, are deemed fit to practice dentistry upon graduation. There is no licensing examination to determine if the graduate has acquired the necessary skills to practice dentistry on the public.

Q8 If a proposal about an online open-book assessment of a practitioner's technical and clinical skills and knowledge is supported, how often should practitioners be required to complete an assessment?

Please explain.:

Not a valid approach

Q9 Do you have other proposals about our proposed core recertification programme you would like us to consider? Please explain.

See the answer in question 7

Page 4: Area two: support for new registrants

Q10 What, if anything, do you like about our draft proposals for supporting new registrants?

I like the fact that a 2 year mentorship is proposed.

Q11 Is there anything about the draft proposals for supporting new registrants you would change?

Yes,

Please explain.:

A dental licensing examination be implemented.

Q12 Do you think the proposed two year minimum period for the mentoring relationship is:

too short,

Please explain.:

I believe the mentoring program should be phased based on the level of competence of the new graduate. For example, if the new graduate proves to be competent in basic dental procedures such as fillings, crowns and simple root canals but lacks the empathetic tone of being a health care provider, then further nurturing of that individual is required. In New Zealand, the public is faced with a tremendous hurdle for dental health. First, their initial experience of dental care by the dental nurse (otherwise known as the "murder house") poses an aversion for seeking dental care. Second, all dental care is at the patient's expense. That means dental care is a discretionary income expense. Would you rather buy that brand new big screen TV or spend that money on your mouth? Lastly, the public awareness of dental health is a "wait till it hurts" approach. There is little public awareness of why it is necessary to take care of their teeth or what to do to take care of their teeth. As a dental practitioner, acquiring the basic dental skill set is only part of the role required to be a valuable dental health care provider to the public. The ability to communicate with a patient faced with the dental care hurdles mentioned requires years of experience. The issue of WHO are the mentors still needs to be clarified. What determines if a dentist can be a mentor? What is the mentor accreditation process?

Q13 Do you think all new registrants should participate in a mentoring programme, or are there some new registrants who should not be required to participate in a mentoring programme?

No,

Please explain.:

This is not a yes or no question. New registrants that hold a "license" to practice dentistry from an accredited dental school (needs to be defined) should not be required to participate in a mentoring or supervised program.

Q14 Do you have other proposals about supporting new registrants you would like us to consider? Please explain.

Establish a criteria for accepting new registrants for dental practice in New Zealand based on prior training. If the new registrant is a new graduate from New Zealand, then a licensing examination is required. The same licensing examination (not the NZDREX) is required for new registrants trained outside the accepted global dental training system.

For example, New Zealand invites dentists to provide Continuing Education courses from all over the world. How are those dentists evaluated to be adequately trained to actually give a course? Would those course instructors from outside New Zealand be automatically granted a license to practice dentistry in New Zealand if they so desired? Would New Zealand be "lucky" to have them?

Much thought has to go into this consideration.

Q15 What, if anything, do you like about our draft proposals for addressing health-related competence decline concerns?

I would like to know more about the findings of the health related competence decline you are referring to. The link provided in the Phase 2 consultation review does not work. It takes the user to the Dental Council main page where in the search for "health-rated competence decline" results in no findings.

Q16 Is there anything about the draft proposals for addressing health-related competence decline concerns you would change?

Yes,
Please explain.:
Being able to find the health-related competence decline concerns.

Q17 Do you have other proposals for addressing health-related competence decline concerns you would like us to consider? Please explain.

Respondent skipped this question

Page 6: Area four: addressing recurring non-compliant practitioner behaviours

Q18 What, if anything, do you like about our draft proposals for addressing recurring non-compliant practitioner behaviours?

Respondent skipped this question

Q19 Is there anything about the draft proposals for addressing recurring non-compliant practitioner behaviours you would change?

Respondent skipped this question

Q20 Do you have other proposals for addressing recurring non-compliant practitioner behaviours you would like us to consider? Please explain.

Respondent skipped this question

Page 7: Final thoughts and comments

Phase two consultation on recertification

Q21 Do you have any other comments, suggestions or information you want to share with us about the draft proposals for improving our approach to recertification?

I believe the recertification process should start with an initial certification process, such as a licensing examination like other parts of the world.

When I moved to New Zealand as practicing dentist 11 years ago, I was appalled at the state of the oral health of the patients I saw. Rampant decay and periodontal disease afflicted most of the patients I saw and still do. There seemed to be little concern for oral health by dental patients at large.

While practising in the United States for 20 years prior to moving to New Zealand, I thought the dues paid to the American Dental Association were for nothing. That is, until I moved to New Zealand. Then I remembered all the oral health awareness campaigns funded by the ADA and the overall concern for the public's oral health. The importance of a healthy mouth and smile is well known in the States.

I love New Zealand and I want to participate in improving the state of the oral care here. Where do you start?

I served as a mentor for the 5th year dental students out of Otago for 2 years in 2011 and 2012. I felt the attitude of the 20 students I saw was that there was nothing else to learn in dentistry and I was too old to teach them anything. I took intra oral pictures of the dental work being performed by these students which illustrated basic restorative incompetence and showed these pictures to the Otago outplacement program coordinator. He asked me what was wrong with them. At that point, I fulfilled my obligation and then chose not to participate in the program further due to the realisation that what the students were taught was the reason the oral health in New Zealand was deplorable.

Last year, we hired a dental assistant for the summer while she was off at university. It turns out that she had just finished her 3rd year at Otago School of Dentistry. She explained to me how unprepared she felt for doing real life dentistry based on her training thus far after witnessing real life dentistry first hand. We have kept in contact during her 4th year and she states has fearful concern over her training.

I was one of the few employers at the NZDA job fair in August 2018 where I interviewed 18 dental students graduating in December for employment at our busy practice. Each candidate I interviewed stated they felt unprepared to practice and were thankful our practice offered a mentorship opportunity.

In closing, I feel that as opposed to placing emphasis on RE-certifying dentists, place the emphasis on the initial certification process.
