

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018**

Dear Members of the Dental Council of New Zealand,

This is my personal submission on your draft document on “Recertifying Our Oral Health Practitioner – Phase 2”.

Like many of my peers and colleagues, upon receiving and reading the Council’s draft recertification, I was perplexed and overwhelmed by the content and proposed framework described. Further frustration was created by the limited timeframe given to submit a response to such an important document.

As a proud practicing dentist in Auckland and over 27 years of experience in general dentistry, I am in agreement of the policy objectives Dental Council has identified:

- **Assuring** the public their oral health practitioners are competent and fit to practice
- **Managing** practitioner competence and the prevention of competence decline
- **Identifying** at risk or unsafe practitioners.

However, the proposed framework to address these objectives is, with respect, illogical and off-track. The objectives need to be considered from all angles and perspectives in order to satisfy them.

Implementing major changes within the dental profession is not simple and linear; they need to be embedded into an adaptable, complex, and dynamic system.

In my opinion, the next sensible step should involve all representative parties (Dental Council, Dental Association, and other relevant stakeholders) working together to co-design, co-develop, implement, and maintain an effective framework. We need to create a system which is realistic, flexible and can be sustained long-term. This will take mutual commitment, time, and effort.

I am a frontline “dental soldier” who sincerely takes pride, care, and responsibility for protecting her patient’s oral health, my question to Dental Council is:

**“Can we collaboratively work together and establish a new working framework?”**

Yours sincerely,

Usha Narshai (BDS, Otago)