

27 February 2020

Dear practitioner or other stakeholder,

## Outcome - consultation on proposed changes to scopes of practice and prescribed qualifications

The Dental Council (the Council) consulted with practitioners and stakeholders on [proposed changes to its scopes of practice and prescribed qualifications](#) between October and December 2019.

The changes proposed aimed to make the profession described by each relevant scope clearer. Further minor updates to the prescribed qualifications for some scopes were proposed to provide clarity and reflect current practice around prescribed qualifications.

### Outcome - Council's decision

The Council confirmed the proposed changes in the [consultation document](#), with two additional changes outlined below. The Council does not consider any of the changes will impact practitioners' day-to-day practise.

#### 1. Scope of practice for oral and maxillofacial surgery specialists

The Council agreed to update the oral and maxillofacial surgery specialists' scope definition as follows:

*Oral and maxillofacial surgery specialists practise in the branch of dentistry **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.*

The Council acknowledges the specific role of surgery within this dental specialty. The Council considered the proposal to retain the description of "in that part of surgery" still achieved the desired legal accuracy of the scope description.

#### 2. Scope of practice for clinical dental technology

The Council agreed to amend to the proposed clinical dental technology scope definition as follows:

*The practice of clinical dental technology involves the processes and procedures associated with taking impressions, undertaking other non-invasive clinical procedures related to the design, manufacture, repair and fitting of complete or partial ~~fixed and~~ removable oral and extra-oral appliances and prostheses, in accordance with this scope of practice and the clinical dental technician's approved education, training, experience and competence.*

The Council acknowledged including the design, manufacture and repair of fixed appliances in the proposed definition extended the clinical dental technology scope of practice. This was not the intent.

### **Submissions received**

A total of 11 submissions were received. The Council thanks submitters for taking the time to share their views. Six submissions supported the proposed changes, and five disagreed and raised specific concerns. The Council considered all submissions in detail.

Most of the concerns raised were about prescribed qualifications. However, these concerns - such as the structure of the New Zealand dental specialist registration examination process, and requests to extend recognition to other international jurisdictions' qualifications for some dental specialist scopes - fell outside of the scope of the consultation.

Some proposals on extending scope definitions were also received, although these fell outside the ambit of this review and consultation.

However, the Council acknowledges submitters' valid points on these matters, and will consider these comments when it undertakes full scope reviews in the future.

### **Gazette notice**

The Council will now publish the full set of [updated scopes of practice and prescribed qualifications](#) in the New Zealand Gazette. The Gazette notice will be available on our website once published.

These changes will come into effect once the Gazette notice is published.

If you have any further comments or questions, please do not hesitate to email us at [consultations@dcnz.org.nz](mailto:consultations@dcnz.org.nz).

Yours sincerely



Marie Warner

Chief Executive