

**BRIEF:**

Consultation paper – proposed changes to the ADC/DC(NZ) accreditation standards for dental practitioner programs

**Introduction:**

The Australian Dental Council (ADC) and the Dental Council, New Zealand (DC/NZ) accreditation standards came into effect from 1 January 2016. The standards are used to evaluate education and training programs that lead to registration and endorsement of registration in Australia and New Zealand. The standards have been reviewed to ensure they are contemporary and focus on public safety. The consultation of this review is open from 18 February to 20 April 2020.

At the commencement of this review several ‘focus areas’ were identified in relation to external influences and/or feedback from stakeholders. Changes are proposed in the following areas:

- Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Maori Peoples health outcomes
- Consumer involvement
- Inter-professional learning and practice
- Assessment

**Consultation questions:**

The following questions relate to the review and require answers of Yes, No, Partly, Do not Know).

Number	Question	Response
1.	Do you consider that the draft standards are at the threshold level required for public safety.	Yes
2.	Do you consider that the draft standards are applicable across all types of education providers delivering accredited programs.	Yes
3.	Do you agree with the following specific proposals as incorporated in the draft standards?	Yes
a.	In New Zealand: A dedicated domain in the standards on cultural competence for Maori and Pacific Peoples, its criteria.	Yes
b.	In Australia: A dedicated domain in the standards on cultural competence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Peoples and its criteria.	Yes
c.	The introduction of a preamble explaining the purpose of the Standards and how they will be used.	Yes

d.	An additional criterion requiring programs to ensure students understand the legal, ethical and professional responsibilities of a registered dental practitioner.	Yes
e.	Amended criteria to require the involvement of dental consumers in accreditation program, design, management and quality improvement.	Yes
f.	For internal, external, professional and academic input into program design and development to be combined into one criterion.	Yes
g.	The revision of the criteria in Domain 2 – Academic governance and quality assurance to clarify that the focus of the Standards is at the program level.	Yes
h.	A revised criterion regarding intra- and inter-professional education replacing criterion 3.6 in the existing Standards.	Yes
i.	Amendments to the Domain on assessment, including changes to the Standard Statement and to the criteria underneath.	Yes
Q4.	Are there any additional Standards that should be added?	No
Q5.	Are there any Standards that should be deleted or reworded?	No
Q6.	Do you have any other comments?	Yes
<p>Comments:  The proposed changes across the 'focus areas' address the current gaps in the existing Standards and align with contemporary benchmarks and expectations in protecting public safety. Consideration should be given to bi-annual reviews.</p>		