

1 May 2023

Kia ora koutou,

## Consultation on proposed recognition of Ireland Dental Council accredited dentistry programmes

### The proposal

The Dental Council New Zealand is proposing to gazette the Dental Council of Ireland accredited dentistry programmes as prescribed qualifications for the New Zealand general dental practice scope of practice.

A reciprocal agreement between Dental Council NZ and Dental Council of Ireland to accept accredited dentistry programmes, confirm that the jurisdictions recognise the accreditation standards and policies, scopes of practice and competencies as being substantially equivalent to its own, and therefore recognises the accreditation status of education programmes in general dentistry.

This recognition will support graduates from these accredited programmes with easier and streamlined registration pathways.

### Background

As reported in previous annual reports, Dental Council New Zealand (the Council) embarked on exploring the option of reciprocity between New Zealand and Ireland of its accredited dentistry programmes. COVID-19 interrupted this project.

The validation process for the dentistry programmes has now been completed. The review process included:

- a desktop review of the:
  - scopes of practice and competencies
  - accreditation policies, standards and processes
- observation of accreditation processes and application of standards and policies
- observation of governance and decision-making processes.

Due diligence by each jurisdiction is now complete.

In summary, the scopes of practice and competencies; accreditation policy, standards and processes; are considered comparable between the two jurisdictions. The accreditation and decision-making processes are robust and independent.

Following the validation process to ensure comparable scopes of practice and accreditation regimes, both Councils signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to maintain a reciprocal arrangement of certain accredited programmes. The first group of accreditation programmes accepted under the MOU related to general dentistry/general dental practice.

The MOU provides for regular assurance for ongoing recognition. The agreement also provides for future review of other professions recognised across both jurisdictions – such as dental specialist

disciplines (as relevant), dental hygiene and orthodontic auxiliaries, dental and clinical dental technology etc.

Accredited programmes from Dental Council of Ireland are also accepted in Canada<sup>1</sup>, and was recently added by the Dental Board of Australia to the list of recognised overseas dentistry qualifications.

This MOU is similar to the agreement signed earlier between the Council and the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada for reciprocity of general dentistry programmes accredited by each authority.

### What does the proposal mean?

At the moment, the following dentistry programmes are accredited in the two jurisdictions:

- New Zealand: Bachelor of Dental Surgery University of Otago
- Ireland: Bachelor of Dental Surgery (Hons) University College Cork, and Bachelor of Dental Science Trinity College Dublin.

Reciprocity will support graduates from these programmes with easier and streamlined [registration pathways](#). This facilitates easier workforce movement between the two jurisdictions.

In New Zealand, this is achieved by gazetting these qualifications as a prescribed qualification for the general dental practice scope of practice. This signals that the Council consider these qualifications as comparable to New Zealand accredited programmes. This means, graduates from these programmes are considered to meet the entry level competencies for practice in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Similar to any other registrant, other fitness to practice requirements such as ability to communicate adequately in English, health and conduct assurances remain in place.

### Have your say

Section 14(2) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 requires the Council to consult on the proposed notice of prescribed qualifications for a scope of practice.

Please provide your feedback by responding to the following consultation question:

Do you agree/disagree with the proposed addition of Dental Council of Ireland accredited dentistry programmes as prescribed qualifications for the New Zealand general dental practice scope of practice?

Attachment 1 contains the proposed notice reflecting the addition (in red text) to the prescribed qualifications for the general dental scope of practice.

The consultation process provides oral health practitioners and other interested parties (including professional associations and societies, Manatū Hauora - the Ministry of Health, Te Whatu Ora, and educational institutions) with an opportunity to make submissions.

We welcome and value all feedback, but multiple, identical submissions do not carry any more weight than a single submission. All feedback we receive will be considered and will inform our final decision.

---

<sup>1</sup> Accepted by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada as accredited programmes, effective December 5, 2012

## Submissions

Your submissions must reach us **by 31 May 2023**.

You can submit your response to [consultations@dcnz.org.nz](mailto:consultations@dcnz.org.nz).

Submissions received will be published on our website and will record the submitter's name and profession (for registered oral health practitioners). All other contact details will be removed. We will not publish any submissions containing derogatory or inflammatory content.

As this is a public consultation process, "In confidence" information will only be accepted under special circumstances. Please contact us before submitting material in confidence.

If you have any questions about this consultation, you can contact us by [email](#) or phone 04 499 4820. I look forward to receiving your views on the proposals.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MacKay', is enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

Marie MacKay  
Chief Executive/Acting Registrar

## Proposed DRAFT notice of prescribed qualifications for general dental practice scope of practice

### Under the Legislation Act 2019

Under the Legislation Act 2019, notice is given of the making of the following secondary legislation:

<i>Title</i>	<i>Empowering provision(s)</i>	<i>Administering agency</i>	<i>Date made</i>
Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003	Section 12	Dental Council	[month] 2023

This secondary legislation can be accessed [here](#).

The following replaces the scope of practice and prescribed qualifications for oral and maxillofacial surgery published in the *New Zealand Gazette*, 12 November 2021, 2021-si4804.

This notice is issued by the Dental Council pursuant to section 12 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

### Prescribed qualifications for the scope of practice for general dental practice

#### New Zealand

- Bachelor of Dental Surgery, University of Otago
- Bachelor of Dental Surgery with Honours, University of Otago.

#### Australia

- an Australian Dental Council (ADC) accredited programme<sup>1</sup>
- a Dental Board of Australia approved programme of study providing a qualification for the purpose of registration in general dentistry in Australia<sup>2</sup>
- a five-year undergraduate dental degree and a pass in the Australian Dental Council licensing examinations.

#### General Dental Council (GDC) accredited dental schools in the UK and Commonwealth countries

- a GDC accredited undergraduate dental degree from a GDC accredited dental school in the UK, or Commonwealth as listed below.

<b>Dental School</b>	<b>Dates of recognition – student must have completed and satisfied all programme requirements before the end-date listed below</b>
Western Cape	Before 1 January 1998
Hong Kong	Before 1 January 2001

<sup>1</sup> Before 30 June 2010, and before 17 October 2010 for Western Australia

<sup>2</sup> From 1 July 2010 onwards, and 18 October 2010 onwards for Western Australia

Singapore	Before 1 January 2001
Witwatersrand	Before 1 January 2001
Pretoria	Before 1 January 2001
Stellenbosch	Before 1 January 2001
Medical University of South Africa	1 January 1997 - 31 December 2000
Malaysia	1 January 1997 - 31 December 2000

### Ireland

- an accredited undergraduate dental degree from the Dental Council of Ireland<sup>3</sup>

### USA and Canada

- an accredited undergraduate dental degree from the Commission on Dental Accreditation in the USA or the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada
- a five-year undergraduate dental degree and a pass in the USA licensing examinations
- a five-year undergraduate dental degree and a pass in the National Dental Examining Board of Canada Equivalency Examination Process<sup>4</sup>

### Other

- a five-year undergraduate dental degree and a pass in the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Graduate cohorts from 2022 onwards

<sup>4</sup> A pass in any of the National Dental Examining Board of Canada Equivalency Examinations after 3 March 2014

<sup>5</sup> Administered by the National Dental Examining Board of Canada on behalf of the Dental Council since August 2015