



Page 2: About your submission

Q1

First name

Hyun

Q2

Last name

Ahn



Q4

Are you primarily based in New Zealand or overseas?

Overseas,

If overseas, where?:
korea, Republic of

Q5

Company/organisation name

Respondent skipped this question

Q6

In what capacity are you making this submission?

Registered oral health practitioner

Page 3: About your submission

Q7

Dentist

What is your profession?

Q8

Please enter your Dental Council Person ID, if applicable

26328

Page 4: Proposed registration pathways

Q9

No

Do you believe the proposed changes will help reduce barriers to registration for suitably trained overseas practitioners?

Q10

Respondent skipped this question

Please tell us why:

Page 5: Introduction of the proposed 'Competent authority - registration' pathway

Q11

Support

Do you support the introduction of the 'Competent authority - registration' pathway? [Click to learn more](#) about the proposed pathway

Q12

Please tell us why:

Accepting dentists from countries that have previously been recognised is grounded in a consistent and well-established process of verification. Therefore, I consider this pathway to be a sound and reasonable alternative compared with the other two proposed pathways.

Page 6: Introduction of the proposed 'Comparable health system' pathway

Q13

Oppose

Do you support the introduction of the 'Comparable health system' pathway for dentists? [Click to learn more](#) about the proposed pathway

Q14

Please tell us why:

In the Republic of

Korea, approximately 700 to 800 new dentists enter the market each year. Although dental curricula are regulated by the government, while preparing for the NZDREX through the National Dental Examination Board of Canada (NDEB) Equivalency Process, I realised that the dental education I received in Korea contained many shortcomings and was often very superficial. To be direct, I believe that most Korean dental schools would fall short of the standards required by the DCNZ, because I have personally experienced this gap. Through preparing for the NZDREX, my professional competence as a dentist has improved significantly, and I have learned many things that were never properly taught in my dental education in Korea.

The dental profession in Korea is extremely competitive. Core principles that are highly valued in New Zealand – such as professionalism, health promotion, communication and collaboration, patient-centred care, and practice and information management – are largely neglected in Korea.

For example, implant treatment is heavily commercialised. Prices are widely advertised on social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, with many dentists openly promoting their clinics online. Over-diagnosis and overtreatment have become common practice.

While Korea does have a licensing authority, it oversees all healthcare professions nationwide, which means dental regulation and monitoring are relatively weak. Given this context, it is deeply concerning to think that a dentist from Korea could be granted registration in New Zealand after only one year of supervised practice, without going through the NZDREX process.

I personally spent seven years preparing for the NZDREX, and through that process, I gained the knowledge, skills, and professional values necessary to meet New Zealand's standards. As a practising dentist in New Zealand, I find the Comparable Health System pathway extremely concerning for the safety and trust of the New Zealand public. I sincerely urge the DCNZ to reconsider this pathway carefully.

Page 7: Introduction of the proposed 'Teaching and research' pathway

Q15

Support

Do you support the introduction of the 'Teaching and research' pathway? Click to learn more about the proposed pathway

Q16

Respondent skipped this question

Please tell us why:

Page 9: Proposed removal of requirement for a medical degree for oral medicine specialist registration

Q17

Support

Do you support removing the requirement for a medical degree for oral medicine specialist registration in New Zealand, subject to the relevant medical training and clinical experiences being embedded into the specialist training programme? Click to learn more about the proposed changes.

Q18

Respondent skipped this question

Please tell us why:

Page 10: Proposed removal of requirement to register in dental technology before registering in CDT

Q19

Support

Do you support removing the requirement to register in dental technology before registering in clinical dental technology? Click to learn more about the proposed changes.

Q20

Respondent skipped this question

Please tell us why:

Page 11: Proposed changes to the New Zealand registration examination requirements

Q21

Support

Do you support the proposed changes to the New Zealand registration examination requirements? Click to learn more about the proposed changes.

Q22

Respondent skipped this question

Please tell us why:

Page 12: Proposed administrative changes to the prescribed qualifications

Q23

Respondent skipped this question

Do you have feedback on the proposed administrative changes to prescribed qualifications for any of the scopes of practice, as reflected in the draft Gazette notices?

Q24

Please tell us your feedback. When discussing multiple scopes, please indicate clearly which scope of practice you are referring to in your comment.

none

Page 13: Proposed fees for the new registration pathways

Q25

No

Do you find the proposed fees for the new registration pathways reasonable? Proposed fee notice

Q26

Respondent skipped this question

Please tell us why or why not?

Page 14: Thank you for your time

Q27

Is there any additional feedback you would like to share on the consultation?

For Comparable

Health System,

In the Republic of Korea, approximately 700 to 800 new dentists enter the market each year. Although dental curricula are regulated by the government, while preparing for the NZDREX through the National Dental Examination Board of Canada (NDEB) Equivalency Process, I realised that the dental education I received in Korea contained many shortcomings and was often very superficial.

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Last name

Ahn

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Q4

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Overseas,

If overseas, where?:

Korea, republic if

Q5

Company/organisation name

Respondent skipped this question

Q6

Overseas accrediting or registration/licensing body

In what capacity are you making this submission?

Page 3: About your submission

Q7

What is your profession?

Respondent skipped this question

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your Dental Council Person ID, if applicable

Page 4: Proposed registration pathways

Q9

No

Do you believe the proposed changes will help reduce barriers to registration for suitably trained overseas practitioners?

Q10

Please tell us why:

As a dentist who has passed the NZDREX and is currently practicing in New Zealand, I am concerned that if the approach suggested in the recent survey is implemented, the pathway to becoming a dentist in New Zealand may become significantly less rigorous. This could potentially result in dental care of lower quality being provided to the public.

The equivalency process of the National Dental Examination Board of Canada (NDEB) is well known for its high level of rigor and objectivity. I personally completed the NZDREX pathway and subsequently registered with the Dental Council of New Zealand. In Korea, where I completed my dental education, qualification as a dentist also requires examinations and evaluations; however, the process is not as demanding or comprehensive as NZDREX.

Through the NZDREX experience, I believe I have developed and advanced much further as a dental professional than I had before. I am convinced that maintaining the current level of thoroughness, oversight, and integrity in the NZDREX process is essential to ensuring public safety and upholding the professional standards expected within New Zealand's dental community.

For these reasons, I strongly believe that the NZDREX system should not be changed.

Page 5: Introduction of the proposed 'Competent authority - registration' pathway

Q11

Oppose

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Page 7: Introduction of the proposed 'Teaching and research' pathway

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Page 9: Proposed removal of requirement for a medical degree for oral medicine specialist registration

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Support

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Page 10: Proposed removal of requirement to register in dental technology before registering in CDT

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Page 11: Proposed changes to the New Zealand registration examination requirements

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Support

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Page 12: Proposed administrative changes to the prescribed qualifications

Q23

General dental practice

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Page 13: Proposed fees for the new registration pathways

Q25

No

Do you find the proposed fees for the new registration pathways reasonable? Proposed fee notice

Q26

Please tell us why or why not?

Too expensive

Page 14: Thank you for your time

Q27

Is there any additional feedback you would like to share on the consultation?

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