

Page 2: About your submission

Q1

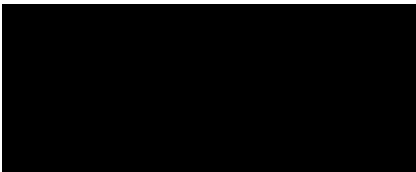
First name

Martarwee

Q2

Last name

Charoenviboonphan



Q4

Are you primarily based in New Zealand or overseas?

Overseas,  
If overseas, where?:  
United Kingdom

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

What is your profession?

Dentist

**Q8**

Please enter your Dental Council Person ID, if applicable

319485

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Page 4: Proposed registration pathways

**Q9**

**Yes**

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

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**Q10**

Please tell us why:

Why I support the proposed changes:

Recognition of Equivalent Oversight: The "Competent Authority" pathway correctly identifies that practitioners working under established regulators like the UK's GDC have already met high standards of safety and clinical competence. Focusing on the regulatory system of practice, rather than just the country of initial qualification, reduces redundant bureaucratic hurdles for safe, experienced clinicians.

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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](#)

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**Q12**

Please tell us why:

Recognition of Equivalent Oversight: The "Competent Authority" pathway correctly identifies that practitioners working under established regulators like the UK's GDC have already met high standards of safety and clinical competence. Focusing on the regulatory system of practice, rather than just the country of initial qualification, reduces redundant bureaucratic hurdles for safe, experienced clinicians.

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

**Q13**

**Partially support**

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

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## Q14

Please tell us why:

Clinical vs. Communication Equivalence: While the clinical training and health system standards in the listed countries (such as Germany, Japan, or South Korea) are undeniably high, the "comparability" of a health system is not solely defined by technical skill. A significant portion of New Zealand dental practice relies on the patient-practitioner relationship, informed consent, and navigating the ACC system, all of which are heavily language-dependent.

Risk of Language Barriers: Practitioners from countries where English is not the primary language of instruction or practice may face challenges in meeting the "Cultural Safety" and "Communication" standards required by the DCNZ. I support this pathway only if it is coupled with rigorous, mandatory English language testing (IELTS/OET) and a robust "Supported Entry" period to ensure that communication does not become a point of clinical failure.

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

## Q15

No opinion/NA

Do you support the introduction of the 'Teaching and research' pathway?[Click to learn more about the proposed pathway](#)

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## Q16

Respondent skipped this question

Please tell us why:

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

## Q17

No opinion/NA

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.](#)

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## Q18

Respondent skipped this question

Please tell us why:

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

## Q19

No opinion/NA

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.](#)

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**Q20**

Respondent skipped this question

Please tell us why:

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

**Q21**

No opinion/NA

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

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**Q22**

Respondent skipped this question

Please tell us why:

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Page 12: Proposed administrative changes to the prescribed qualifications

**Q23**

General dental practice

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?

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**Q24**

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

I support the administrative change that allows the Council to recognise qualifications and recent clinical experience from Competent Authorities as equivalent to prescribed qualifications. This acknowledges that safe practice is maintained through continuous regulation, not just the initial point of graduation.

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Page 13: Proposed fees for the new registration pathways

**Q25**

Yes

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

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**Q26**

Respondent skipped this question

Please tell us why or why not?

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Page 14: Thank you for your time

**Q27**

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

I wholeheartedly support the implementation of the Competent Authority Pathway. This shift represents a modern, risk-based approach to regulation that prioritizes a practitioner's proven clinical standing within equivalent systems, such as the UK's GDC, over the academic nuances of their initial qualification.

For practitioners currently working within 'Competent Authority' jurisdictions, this pathway removes the 'gamble' of individual assessments and replaces it with a predictable, transparent, and welcoming route into the New Zealand workforce.

My final recommendations for a successful rollout are:

**Clarity on Oversight:** The proposed 'supported entry' should be defined by clear, objective clinical outcomes rather than subjective timelines. This ensures that the transition to autonomous practice in New Zealand is based on merit and local integration.

**Regional Focus:** I encourage the Council to ensure that the required 'oversight' can be easily facilitated in mid-sized regional hubs (e.g., Tauranga, Napier, Nelson). By making these pathways portable and regionally accessible, the DCNZ can help distribute skilled practitioners to the areas where they are most needed, while supporting the lifestyle and stability goals of the clinicians themselves.

**Long-term Retention:** By lowering the entry barriers and the associated financial stress (from \$7,300+ down to \$1,888), the Council is fostering a culture of professional respect. This is the single most effective way to ensure that overseas-trained dentists view New Zealand not just as a stepping stone, but as a permanent professional home.

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