



Page 2: About your submission

Q1

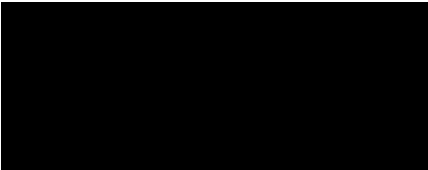
First name

Wassam

Q2

Last name

Ashfaq



Q4

Are you primarily based in New Zealand or overseas?

Overseas,
If overseas, where?:
UAE

Q5

Company/organisation name

ZMC

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 Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your Dental Council Person ID, if applicable

Page 4: Proposed registration pathways

Q9 Somewhat

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

Q10

Please tell us why:

The biggest issue of registering in NZ as an overseas dentist is going through the NDEB. The notoriously difficult, bureaucratic, high cost, multi year long process just to register as a dentist. Atleast the UK understands how bad the ORE examinations and process is right now and they are actively making changes to it to double the number of registered dentists by next year, removing red tape as they say. Dental councils do not understand the toll it takes to go through this process. These new changes are atleast a step in the right direction in terms of thinking however more countries need to be in the recognized qualifications list. How is it that Portugal is on the list and the UAE is not. NZ council must realize all the NDEB exams must be done in Canada. Instead on relying on NDEB, NZ should have their own way of assessment. Why would an experienced dentist go through this headache and multiple year long process of the NDEB. I know multiple dentists drop out after 5 years of trying to pass these exams. In their words it's a 'money making machine'.

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

Q11 No opinion/NA

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

Q12

Please tell us why:

Its still the same countries recognized. Not doing much

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:

UAE is not on the list. Even for countries listed I fear there's still too much red tape.

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

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

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.

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

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.

Q20

Respondent skipped this question

Please tell us why:

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

Q21**Partially 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**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?

Q24

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

Limited recognition pathways for non-Australian, non-New Zealand graduates

At present, only a few options exist for foreign-trained dentists: either completing an approved NZ/Australian dental degree, passing the New Zealand Registration Examination (NZREX equivalent, via ADC route), or holding an NDEB Canada certificate. For dentists like myself from universities in the UAE or Asia, this forces us to go through another country's licensing system (Canada's NDEB), which involves significant extra cost, time, and uncertainty even though the professional competence standard is equivalent.

Lack of direct assessment or reciprocity

There is no direct route for competent overseas dentists (who have already completed rigorous training, internships, and active clinical work abroad) to demonstrate clinical competence directly in New Zealand.

Other countries (like the UK under provisional registration proposals, or Australia under the ADC streamlined assessment pilot) are developing more flexible models, whereas New Zealand's route remains rigidly tied to third-party exams (NDEB or ADC).

Financial and logistical barriers of the NDEB route

Sitting NDEB exams requires travel to Canada, multiple attempts (ACJ, ACS, AFK), expensive fees, and long waiting times.

For international dentists not intending to practise in Canada, it creates double expense first passing NDEB, then applying again for New Zealand registration.

There is no local or remote option for sitting those exams under DCNZ oversight.

Unclear policy on recency of practice and internship equivalence

Many non-NZ dentists complete a 1-year clinical internship (as in the UAE). It's unclear whether this is considered equivalent to the "supervised practice" requirement or how recent practice (e.g., within 2 years) affects recognition.

Clearer guidance or case examples for foreign graduates would help applicants plan their career pathways earlier. Potential for a provisional or supervised registration model

Many other jurisdictions are exploring provisional registration for overseas dentists to work under supervision while completing assessments.

Is DCNZ considering introducing a similar pathway to attract competent international dentists sooner particularly given the dentist shortages in certain regions of New Zealand?

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?

High cost just for an assessment.

Page 14: Thank you for your time

Q27

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

Council needs to do more and cut red tape preventing hundreds of dentists to even consider practicing and settling in NZ. They should also look into proposed changed the UK is making to reform the ORE exams, mutual recognition and shortening the time overseas dentists join the workforce.
