

Feedback on Proposed Registration Pathways for Overseas Dental Practitioners

Dear Dental Council team,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed new registration pathways for overseas-trained oral health practitioners.

I strongly support the Council's initiative to create clearer and more accessible routes for qualified and experienced practitioners from overseas to register and contribute to the oral health workforce in New Zealand.

I am a dentist from Ukraine with 15 years of clinical experience. From 2022 to 2024, due to the circumstances in my home country, I worked in Germany as a dental assistant and dental hygienist. Since arriving in New Zealand(2024), I have been working as a dental assistant while preparing to have my overseas qualification recognised through the RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning) process.

The proposed Competent Authority Pathway and Comparable Health Systems Pathway would provide a fair and efficient route for practitioners like me to demonstrate competence and integrate into the New Zealand dental system more effectively.

I also fully support the introduction of the "Dental Practice in New Zealand" module, as it would help overseas practitioners better understand local regulations, culture, and patient expectations — ensuring safe and high-quality dental care.

Thank you for considering my submission and for your continued efforts to strengthen the dental workforce while maintaining public safety.

Kind regards,
Anton Cherniak
Dentist (Ukraine)