

Page 2: About your submission

Q1

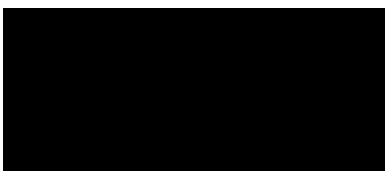
First name

Theertha

Q2

Last name

Kannoth



Q4

New Zealand

Are you primarily based in New Zealand or overseas?

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

Company/organisation name

Q6

In what capacity are you making this submission?

Other (please specify):

Overseas-qualified dentist (India), currently seeking registration in new zealand

Page 3: About your submission

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

What is your profession?

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your Dental Council Person ID, if applicable

Page 4: Proposed registration pathways

Q9

Yes

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

Q10

Please tell us why:

Yes, I support the introduction of new registration pathways. These proposals recognise the growing need for oral health practitioners in New Zealand while maintaining public safety. The current pathways are limited and present significant barriers for many competent overseas-trained dentists. I also encourage the Dental Council of New Zealand to consider assessing Indian dental qualifications for inclusion among the authorised countries, as the training and clinical exposure are comparable and could be supported through appropriate New Zealand specific orientation and supervision.

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

Q11

Partially support

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

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please tell us why:

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

Q13

Support

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

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please tell us why:

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

Please tell us why:

Yes, I support the introduction of new registration pathways. These proposals recognise the growing need for oral health practitioners in New Zealand while maintaining public safety. The current pathways are limited and present significant barriers for many competent overseas-trained dentists. I also encourage the Dental Council of New Zealand to consider assessing Indian dental qualifications for inclusion among the authorised countries, as the training and clinical exposure are comparable and could be supported through appropriate New Zealand specific orientation and supervision.

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

Please tell us why:

Yes, I support removing the requirement for a separate medical degree for oral medicine specialist registration, provided that relevant medical training and clinical experience are appropriately embedded within the specialist training programme. This approach maintains patient safety while recognising that oral medicine is a dental specialty with a defined scope of practice.

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

Q19

Partially 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

Please tell us why:

A direct registration pathway based on demonstrated clinical competence would reduce unnecessary duplication while continuing to ensure patient safety and professional accountability.

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

Please tell us why:

More flexible and competency-based assessment approaches, alongside appropriate New Zealand specific orientation, would help ensure public safety while making the registration process more accessible for suitably qualified overseas practitioners

Page 12: Proposed administrative changes to the prescribed qualifications

Q23

All scopes

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.

While I do not have detailed scope-specific comments on the proposed administrative changes, I support efforts to improve clarity and consistency in prescribed qualification requirements across all scopes of practice.

I respectfully encourage the Dental Council of New Zealand to consider assessing and including Indian Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) qualifications within the list of prescribed or recognised qualifications, particularly for general dental practice. Indian BDS programmes include structured academic study, compulsory internship, and extensive clinical training, and recognition could be supported through appropriate New Zealand specific orientation and supervision to maintain public safety.

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

Q26

Please tell us why or why not?

Yes, I find the proposed fees for the new registration pathways generally reasonable, provided they are proportionate to the administrative and assessment processes involved.

It would be helpful if fee structures remain transparent and consider the financial burden faced by overseas-qualified practitioners, particularly those required to undertake additional assessments or orientation. Reasonable and clearly justified fees will encourage skilled dentists to pursue registration while maintaining confidence in the regulatory process.

Page 14: Thank you for your time

Q27

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

I encourage the Dental Council of New Zealand to continue exploring fair, transparent, and evidence-based pathways for overseas-trained dentists. Recognising comparable education systems, combined with bridging modules and supervised practice, would support both public safety and workforce sustainability.
