

April 2026

# Newsletter

# Dental Council

Te Kaunihera Tiaki Niho

At the Dental Council we have welcomed two new members appointed by the Associate Minister of Health, Alaina Kalyan and Sarah Majeed-Gale, who are both practicing oral health therapists. As Chair, I'd like to also thank Helen Tāne and Erin Campbell-Day for their dedication and service to oral health regulation during their terms on the Council.

As we start a new reporting year, we have a lot to update practitioners on. This newsletter includes updates on:

- Recertification – perception survey findings and upcoming five-year review
- Information on the recent amendment to the Privacy Act - **effective 1 May 2026**
- Sedation practice standard – FAQs on the recent updates to the practice standard
- Our upcoming workplan for 2026/27
- Three new dental specialist training programmes
- Complaints handling presentation delivered at our recent Stakeholder forum
- A call for interest for Professional Conduct Committee members



Ngā manaakitanga,

Dr John Bridgman

**Chair**

## Recertification: five-year review and practitioner survey

Our recertification programme allow a practitioner to demonstrate that they are maintaining their competence to practise, which is a requirement for the issuing of an APC.

The current programme is designed to be flexible and allow practitioners scope in planning their professional development. After five years since introduction, recertification is due for review, including a follow up survey to all practitioners to seek your views on the programme. You can read more on recertification, and the findings of the 2024 survey below:

[READ MORE ON RECERTIFICATION](#)

## Council approval of new dental specialist training programmes

Last month, Council approved the accreditation of three new dental specialist training programmes developed by the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (RACDS), subject to the establishment of the dental specialist training registrar roles by Health NZ Te Whatu Ora. The new fellowships are in:

- Oral medicine
- Paediatric dentistry
- Special needs dentistry.

The programmes are structured, three-year, full-time training pathways delivered through supervised training posts in hospitals and health facilities across New Zealand.

Initial planning is for a maximum of six trainees across the three disciplines; two trainees per discipline spread across the various training centres and years. This vocational training model aligns with international dental specialist training models and will support the training of more dental specialists in areas where there are critical workforce shortages. Council will shortly consult with oral health practitioners and key stakeholders on the proposed gazetting of these programmes as prescribed qualifications in the relevant scope of practice.

[READ THE ACCREDITATION REPORT](#)

## Privacy Act amendment - a new Information Privacy Principle (IPP3A)

On 1 May 2026, a new Information Privacy Principle (IPP3A) will come into force. IPP3A requires agencies to notify individuals when their personal information is collected from third parties (known as indirect collection). At this time, the Council considers that the requirements of IPP3A are adequately covered by:

- Standards 4 and 5 of the current Patient records and privacy of health information practice standard (and associated guidance),
- the Council's Standards Framework for Oral Health Practitioners, which requires practitioners to be familiar, and comply, with their legal and professional obligations (Standard 24) and the associated guidance – this includes the Privacy Act 2020.

The Council has planned in the current financial year a substantive review of Council's Patient records and privacy of health information practice standard. Once the review is complete the Council will consult on any proposed changes with the profession and public as part of that review.

Guidance in IPP3A is available directly from the Privacy Commissioner.

[READ THE GUIDANCE HERE](#)

## Sedation practice standard: FAQs on the standards and guidance

Last month, Council published the response document and final Sedation practice standard following the recent consultation. Some amendments were made in response to the feedback received, and we invite all oral health practitioners to familiarise yourself with the new practice standard.

We have also developed some FAQs based on the recent queries we have received in relation to the updated Sedation practice standard.

[READ THE SEDATION FAQs HERE](#)

## 2026/27 Workplan – Dental Council projects

As we start a new financial year, Council is focused on delivering the projects planned for the year ahead, as consulted on through the budget process. We have a number of these initiatives already underway or about to get started. This work is all about strengthening what we do, staying connected to what's happening across the sector, and making sure our regulatory approach continues to reflect current practice and emerging thinking. Below is a snapshot of what's coming up and where you may be asked to provide comment on over the next year.

<b>Registration pathways implementation</b>
<b>Compliance Framework</b>
<b>Standards Framework</b> updates with focus on AI, telehealth/virtual health
<b>Scopes of practice</b> - including dental specialists' joint competencies with Dental Board of Australia
<b>Practice standard reviews:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Advertising practice standard</i></li><li>• <i>Medical emergencies practice standard</i></li><li>• <i>Patient records and privacy of health information practice standard</i></li></ul>
<b>Accreditation standards review</b>
<b>Recertification phase 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Developing the final component of the core programme – assessment</li><li>• New registrant recertification</li><li>• Addressing health related matters in recertification</li></ul>

## Stakeholder forum

Last month, we hosted a forum with 20 representatives from professional associations, societies and government across the oral health sector. The purpose of the forum was to share updates on Dental Council processes, particularly complaint handling and quality improvement, and to identify mutual areas where we can work together effectively.

A key focus of the discussion was building a shared understanding of the challenges facing the sector, and how collaboration can support good and safe oral health outcomes for people in New Zealand. Council presented on our complaints handling processes, and introduced our initial work on the Compliance Framework, that we will be sharing with all practitioners shortly to seek your feedback through consultation.

[READ THE PRESENTATION OVERVIEW](#)

## Interested in serving on a Professional Conduct Committee?

We are calling for expressions of interest from suitability qualified oral health practitioners to take part in Professional Conduct Committees (PCC) appointed by the Council from time to time. These committees play an important role in protecting the health and safety of the public.

A PCC investigates information that raises questions about the conduct or safety of the practice of a health practitioner and makes a determination or recommendations. Each committee is made up of two practitioners and one layperson.

Cases range in complexity, so the time commitment and number of meetings in person or via video-conference can vary. These are paid positions. Legal and additional specialist advice is also made available to committees as needed.

Criteria for appointment:

- A minimum of five years practising experience
- Maintains a current practising certificate with no practising conditions
- An understanding of the practitioner competencies relevant to scopes of practice, the Council standards framework and recertification framework
- Awareness of obligations related to confidentiality, natural justice and privacy.

For more information or to register your expression of interest please email [protection@dcnz.org.nz](mailto:protection@dcnz.org.nz) by 30 May 2026.

## Registration pathways and prescribed qualifications

Council has also considered the consultation submissions on the registration pathways and prescribed qualifications proposals. The outcome response is available to read, and we will be working on implementing these changes into our registration processes over the next quarter.

We thank those who submitted feedback on the proposals.

[READ THE CONSULTATION OUTCOME](#)

**Dental Council**  
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