

28 October 2026

Notice of new overseas registrants recertification programme for oral health practitioners

In accordance with section 41(6) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the HPCA Act), the Dental Council advises that at its meeting on 5 October 2026, it set a recertification programme pursuant to section 41(1) of the Act as described in the [Recertification programmes for oral health practitioners policy](#).

The new overseas registrants recertification programme applies to specified oral health practitioners who submitted an application for registration with the Dental Council after 1 November 2026.

In accordance with section 41(1) of the HPCA Act the Council sets the following recertification programme

The programme applies to oral health practitioners registered through:

- Competent authority qualification (previously referred to as overseas prescribed qualification pathway)
- Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act (TTMR Act)
- Dental Council registration examination.

All participants in the new overseas registrants recertification programme must complete all modules of the programme within six months of being granted their first annual practising certificate.

Programme details

The programme comprises a series of e-learning modules about oral health practice in New Zealand:

- New Zealand health and oral health overview
- Health regulation in New Zealand
- Legal obligations under the HPCA Act 2003
- Concerns about competence and fitness to practise
- Patient complaints
- New Zealand legislation relevant to oral health practice
- Scopes of practice and competencies
- Standards framework for oral health practitioners
- Cultural competence.

The Council consulted about the new registration pathways, and the requirement for all registrants in those pathways (including TTMR registrants) to complete the oral health practice in New Zealand module, from November 2025 to January 2026. The Council confirmed its decision in the [consultation outcome](#) for proposed registration pathways for overseas practitioners in April 2026.

More information about registration pathways can be found [on our website](#).

Yours sincerely



Courtney McCulloch
Registrar