

Arish Naresh, New Zealand Dental & Oral Health Therapists Association

Plenary session speaking notes

Dental Council Symposium, Wellington, 17 March 2017

There hasn't been any discussion about cultural competence throughout the symposium. Cultural competence and an international move towards reducing oral health inequalities should also form part of the recertification discussion.

Regulation is not a bad thing – it's about the interpretation of regulation. To keep the public and practitioner safe, regulations are necessary. Dental and oral health therapists, as a profession, have never resisted being audited but would like the same standards for all professions within the oral health domain.

We need to work as professionals and this is open to interpretation as long as public safety is assured.

New Zealand Dental & Oral Health Therapists Association (NZDOHTA)

Our vision:

We are a team of caring oral health professionals who empower all people to achieve an improved quality of life while upholding the integrity of our profession.

Our values:

- Working together
- Aspirational workforce
- Healthy holistic care
- Action oriented
- One team
- Realising future potential
- Achieving good health and wellbeing.

Changes in our sector

Graduates work in the public sector and district health boards (DHBs) support them well, but this is changing and in the future they may:

- Work within primary health organisations (PHOs) or for iwi providers
- Need a three-year mentoring programme with partners that include (universities, associations, Council and anyone else who would like to be part of this initiative).

Final comment

NZDOHTA is happy to work with Council on its review of recertification. We would welcome the roadshows and are committed to information our members of the developments.