Dental Council of New Zealand meeting - 25 February 2008
Summary of Decisions

Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 requires that at its first meeting of the year the Council must elect a chairperson and deputy chairperson. Dr Mary Livingston was elected Chairperson and Dr Robert Love, Deputy Chairperson.

Mucosa supported mandibular 2-ball implant overdentures

The Council considered a paper from the New Zealand Institute of Dental Technologists that mucosa supported mandibular 2-ball implant overdentures be included in the Dental Technicians' scope of practice. The council did not support such a change to the scope of practice.

Management accounts for the period ended 31 December 2007

The Council noted:
- the closing reserve balance as at 31 Dec 07 was $1,441,647 (compared with the budget position of $1,107,780); and
- the projected closing reserve position as at 31 March 08 is estimated to be $1,296,586 (compared with the budget position of $944,696).

Review of members fees

The Council approved the following change to the Fees and Expenditure Policies: the preparation time claimed for meetings to be increased to 8 hours per Council day and 6 hours per Committee day (N.B. includes sub-committees).

Appointment of members to the Dentist Board

The Council appointed Dr Peter Dysart and Dr John Hale as members of the Dentist Board, to replace Dr Edwin Alcock and Dr Mary Livingston. Drs Alcock and Livingston remain on the Council.

Structural review

The Council resolved that:
- the current Dental Therapist and Dental Hygienist Boards be merged in to a new board managing matters relevant to both professions;
- the Registrar consult with stakeholders and prepare a report on the implications of the merger, to inform decision making at the August meeting of the Council; and
- the Registrar also produce a consultation document to address the question of what steps, if any, need to be taken by the Council to address the matter of students graduating in late 2008 in both dental therapy and dental hygiene.

TTMRA and registration of Oral Surgeons

The Council, having considered the matter of registration of oral surgeons at the November Council meeting, resolved to redraft the consultation document and to refer it to the Dentist Board for comment. The Council noted the recommendations of the Board and resolved that no further consideration be given at this stage to the possible reopening of the oral surgery scope of practice.

The Council noted that practitioners seeking registration under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act (TTMR) would continue to have their registration considered on a case by case basis.

Continuing Professional Development Audits

The Council discussed the proposed CPD methodology and noted that a paper-based audit would be undertaken by the Secretariat. The Council resolved that practitioners be required to declare that they have completed 'x hours' of non-verifiable CPD and 'x' number of peer contact activities; and that the CPD requirements be reviewed at a subsequent meeting.

The Council considered whether or not a threshold of less than 10% non-compliance should result in a warning letter instead of a condition on practice. The Council resolved that there would be no 10% threshold; and where practitioners have not complied with the requirements for CPD the wording on the condition of practice will be: "has not met the CPD requirements".

The Council also resolved to include a questionnaire on CPD in the practitioner information pack.

Briefing from the Ministry of Health

Dr John Marwick – Manager, Workforce, and Dr Robin Whyman – Chief Advisor, Oral Health (Ministry of Health) briefed the Council on the Ministry's Oral Health programme. Details of the programme can be found at http://www.moh.govt.nz/oralhealth

Mr Ryan McLean – Analyst, Ministry of Health, briefed the Council on the Review of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act. For further information on the review see http://www.moh.govt.nz/hpca