

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting – 5 December 2011

The Dental Council is the statutory body constituted under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (The Act) for maintaining self-regulation of the dental professions. Council endeavours to keep its key stakeholders up to date with key decisions. This document is a summary of Council's decisions from the meeting held in December 2011.

Continuing Professional Development – Changes to Recertification requirements

Council approved the establishment of a working group to review the Dentist/Dental Specialist recertification framework that will come into effect from January 2013. Due to the dates of the current recertification cycles, the dentist workforce will be considered on its own for now. A similar process will be followed for the other oral health professions after finalisation of the dentists/dental specialists' recertification requirements. A Terms of reference for the Recertification working party is to be agreed to prior to the end of the year.

Examination Policy after November 2009

Changes to the Examination Policy: *Policy on the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations: Applicants with Assessment of Eligibility applications submitted AFTER 4 November 2009* were approved by Council. Applications for assessment of eligibility for enrolment in the written exam are valid for the next available exam session only. The change in policy will be communicated to all candidates affected by this policy change.

Examination Policy before 2009

Changes to the Examination Policy: *Policy on the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations: Applicants with Assessment of Eligibility applications submitted BEFORE 4 November 2009* were approved by Council. Changes were made to the clinical examination partial passes or failures section to accommodate the increased number of simulations tested from 2 to 3. The change in policy will be communicated to all candidates affected by this policy change.

Scopes of Practice – Orthodontic Auxiliary Prescribed Qualifications

Council considered all the submissions received and approved the removal of the requirement for the completion of a Dental Council approved course for intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs from the current two prescribed qualifications of the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice. Council also approved the name change for the NZAO's training programme's qualification. This was to achieve consistency in the qualification formats of the prescribed qualifications. Council is to issued the Gazette Notice for the revised orthodontic auxiliary prescribed qualifications.

Dental Hygiene Scopes of Practice – Orthodontic Procedures follow-up consultation feedback

Council considered all the submissions received and approved the change to the dental hygiene scope of practice to group the scope procedures into two categories based on the supervision levels i.e. clinical guidance and direct clinical supervision; to change the supervision level of the four orthodontic procedures; and to remove the two procedures already covered in the "general" dental hygiene scope of practice. Council is to issued the Gazette Notice for the revised Dental Hygiene Scope of Practice.

Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (FRACDS) Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS) Prescribed Qualification

Council considered all the submissions received and agreed to gazette the FRACDS OMS as a prescribed qualification for the scope of practice for oral and maxillofacial surgery specialists. This is subject to Council's consideration of the University of Otago Faculty of Dentistry's response to the Secretariat's letter on the FRACDS research component, at Council's next meeting.

Oral Surgery Draft Consultation Document

Council approved the revised draft consultation document for Oral Surgery. The consultation document on Oral Surgery is to be issued to stakeholders for submissions by 30 January 2012.

University of Otago Postgraduate Programmes - Accreditation Report

Following the Accreditation Review Team's site visit in September 2011 and the ADC/Dental Council (NZ) Accreditation committee meeting on 16 November, Council has approved the Accreditation Committee's overall programme accreditation recommendations.

Approval of Courses

Educationalists from Australia have been appointed to review course material and submit a recommendation for Council's consideration of the following University of Otago courses equipped to remove exclusions from practitioners' registration:

- Stainless steel crowns course for dental therapists
- Local anaesthetic course for dental hygienists

Budget 2012/13 and Associated APC Fees and Discipline Levy for Hygiene, Therapy and Technology

Council approved the 2012/13 budgets and the APC fees, Discipline Levies, Late filing fee, examination and registration fees to go out for practitioner and stakeholder consultation.

Consideration of G4 consolidation model

In February 2011, Health Workforce New Zealand (HWNZ) issued a proposal to the 16 NZ Health Regulatory Authorities (RAs) that included suggestions to combine back-office administrative functions into a shared administrative secretariat. The cost of achieving a shared administrative secretariat was expected to be met by the eventual savings in operational expenditure.

After reviewing the HWNZ proposal, five of the largest RAs (based on practitioner volume) agreed to collaborate to assess the opportunity and potential to create a shared administrative secretariat. The collaborative group has adopted a best practice approach to the development of the business case based on the New Zealand Treasury Better Business Case guidelines. The Indicative Business Case (IBC) has received endorsement by the project steering committee and has gained approval to proceed from Council. A detailed business case (DBC) will be developed subsequent to approval of the IBC by all participating RAs and will validate assumptions and provide detailed financial and benefits modelling.

Risk and Insurance Programme Review

Council approved GT Risk Management Ltd as its insurance broker. A review of all existing policies will be undertaken.