

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting – 2 July 2012

The Dental Council is the statutory body constituted under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (The Act) to maintain the health and safety of members of the public by providing mechanisms to ensure that health practitioners are competent and fit to practise. 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 July 2012.

Future of Oral Surgery in New Zealand

The Dental Council discussed in detail the submissions received from stakeholders on the issue of the future of the specialty of Oral surgery in New Zealand. 75 submissions from individuals and organisations were received in total with the majority of submitters supporting option 2 in the consultation – retaining two separate Scopes of Practice – oral and maxillofacial surgery and oral surgery. Council resolved to prepare a draft consultation document proposing that both oral surgery and oral and maxillofacial surgery scopes of practice remain as dental specialty scopes of practice in New Zealand, with the intent to accredit a prescribed qualification for the oral surgery scope of practice.

Consultation of Dental Technology and Clinical Dental Technology Scopes of Practice

The dental Council discussed in detail the submissions received from the follow-up consultation on the dental technology and clinical dental technology scopes of practice. Council approved the changes to the scopes of practice as reflected in the consultation document and approved the gazetting of the scopes of practice for dental technology practice, clinical dental technology practice and the additional scope of practice for clinical dental technicians. The revised code of practice *The Practice of Dental Technology and Clinical dental Technology and the working relationship within the Practice of Dentistry* was also approved for issuing to practitioners and other stakeholders.

Orthodontic Auxiliary Prescribed Qualification correction

No concerns have been submitted to Council on the proposed correction to the Diploma in Dental Hygiene from the University of Otago in the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice prescribed qualifications which omitted the requirement for a Dental Council approved course for extra-oral radiography. Council agreed to issue a Gazette correcting this administrative error.

Follow-up consultation on Codes of Advertising

The Dental Council considered the draft follow-up consultation on the proposed code of practice on advertising. Council approved the draft follow-up consultation for issuing to stakeholders after a few minor amendments were made.

Accreditation – University of Otago MDS/MBChB(OMS)

The Dental Council discussed communications received from the University of Otago relating to the MDS/MBChB(OMS), DClinDent (Oral Medicine) and Dental Technology (Honours) programmes. The Council also received clarification from the RACP Fellowship of the Faculty of Oral Pathology (FFOP) programme on the status of the introduction of the training programme to be delivered in New Zealand.

- University of Otago MDS/MBChB(OMS) – The Faculty of Dentistry had interpreted the original accreditation period granted for the MDS/MBChB(OMS) differently and believed that a further four year accreditation period could be granted without a formal accreditation review. The Council will respond to the University of Otago and advise with reference to the Council's letter issued in November 2006 that there is no ambiguity on the six year accreditation granted and there was no reference to the possibility of a further extension of the accreditation period beyond the six years.
- University of Otago DClinDent(Oral Medicine) – Council will advise the Faculty of Dentistry that a new accreditation review will be required for the DClinDent(Oral Medicine) component. The review will include a comparison of the proposed DclinDent(Oral Medicine) to the MDS component of the existing MDS/MBChB(Oral Medicine) programme. The review process will fall under the ADC/Dental Council (NZ) accreditation committee for consideration of the review team's recommendation.
- University of Otago Dental Technology (Honours) – Council resolved to gazette the University of Otago Bachelor of Dental technology (Honours) programme as a prescribed qualification for the Dental Technology scope of practice.

Ministry of Health – Updated Standing Order Guidelines

The Council agreed to make the Ministry of Health's updated standing order guidelines available to practitioners via the Council website.