

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting 10 December 2018

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The Dental Council (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 November 2018.

University of Otago – Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (oral medicine) accreditation 2018

Council accepted the ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee's recommendation to grant the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (oral medicine) programme accreditation with conditions until 31 December 2019.

Key concerns of the oral medicine programme were:

- The structure of the programme, with the medical degree not being an entry requirement. Due to the lack of fundamental medical knowledge and experience of patient management of students without a medical degree, achieving the appropriate level of knowledge and necessary clinical experience to attain all the oral medicine specialist competencies was considered challenging.
- The breadth and depth of core oral medicine clinical exposure, as well as those additional general medicine exposures of importance to oral medicine specialty training were deficient; current rotations were mostly observational rather than clinically immersive.

Conditions were put in place for the programme with strict timeframes within which evidence that these have been implemented should be provided to the Council, the last of which should be reported back by 15 November 2019.

The conditions relate to:

- strengthening and extending of clinical attachments
- medicine to become an entry criteria for the programme or completion of the medical degree early in the DClinDent programme structure (similar structure to the earlier conjoint MDS/MBChB (OM) programme)
- ensuring external examiner participation in the final assessments by a registered oral medicine specialist
- reporting on the assessment process to the Council.

NZ Association of Orthodontists – orthodontic auxiliary training programme

The New Zealand Association of Orthodontists - Orthodontic Auxiliary Training Programme (NZAO OATP) leads to the Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting and enables successful trainees to register as orthodontic auxiliaries with the Dental Council in New Zealand.

The programme was developed by the NZAO to address the workforce needs for auxiliary staff to assist orthodontists, and was granted its first accreditation in 2010. Training is undertaken in-house in orthodontic practices, and trainees are supervised by approved orthodontists.

The site visit was conducted on 31 August 2018 during the final assessment held at the Faculty of Dentistry Department of Orthodontics in Dunedin. Interviews were held with the programme leadership, administrator, supervisors, clinical evaluator, chief examiner, examiners, and current and recent trainees.

The site evaluation team (SET) considered that all accreditation standards have been met.

Accordingly, Council accepted the SET's recommendation, and granted accreditation to the NZAO Orthodontic Auxiliary Training Programme until 31 December 2023.

Recertification

The phase two consultation on Council's proposals to improve recertification closed on 26 October 2018.

Approximately 650 people participated in the phase two forums and webinars compared with approximately 500 people for phase one (30% increase in participation).

417 valid submissions were received which represents an overall response rate from less than 10% of our total number of practitioners. The 417 valid submissions were made up of:

- 370 online survey submissions
- 37 free-form written submissions
- 1 'in confidence' submission
- 9 anonymous submissions

While the online survey was completed by 543 participants, 173 survey respondents only answered the demographic questions (1 to 3) but did not provide responses to any of the questions about the proposals (questions 4 to 21) and accordingly Council considered these invalid.

The Council considered the submissions and has agreed in principle to go ahead with the four proposals. However, there was still significant work required to develop the operational framework (policy, standards, templates, guidelines etc.) before the policy framework is implemented. Council has requested the secretariat to start the operational development work for Council to consider in early 2019.