

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting in February 2020

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 meetings held in February 2020.

Election of the Chair and Deputy Chair

Under clause 3, schedule 3 of the Act, the Council must, at its first meeting of the year, elect from its membership a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

- Brigadier Andrew Gray was elected as Chair
- Mr John Aarts was elected as Deputy Chair

Scopes of practice and prescribed qualifications - consultation feedback

The Council consulted with practitioners and stakeholders on proposed changes to the scopes of practice and prescribed qualifications between October and December 2019.

A total of 11 submissions were received – six submissions supported the proposed changes, and five disagreed and raised specific concerns.

Council considered all the submissions in detail. Most of the concerns raised were about prescribed qualifications. However, these concerns – such as the structure of the New Zealand dental specialist's registration examination process, and requests to extend recognition to other international jurisdictions' qualifications for some dental specialist scopes – fell outside the scope of the consultation.

Some proposals on extending scope definitions were also received, although these also fell outside the ambit of the review and consultation.

Council acknowledged the valid points raised on these matters and will consider these comments when it undertakes a full scope review in the future.

Overall, Council confirmed the proposed changes in the consultation document, with two additional changes outlined below. Council did not consider any of these changes will impact practitioner's day-to-day practice.

1. Scope of practice for oral and maxillofacial surgery specialists:

Council agreed to update the oral and maxillofacial surgery specialists' scope definition as follows:

*Oral and maxillofacial surgery specialists practise in the branch of dentistry **in that part of surgery** which deals with the diagnosis, surgical and adjunctive treatment of diseases, injuries and defects of the human jaws and associated structures.*

2. Scope of practice for clinical dental technology:

Council acknowledged including the design, manufacture and repair of fixed appliances in the proposed definition extended the clinical dental technology scope of practice. This was not the intent.

Council agreed to amend the proposed scope definition as follows:

The practice of clinical dental technology involves the processes and procedures associated with taking impressions, undertaking other non-invasive clinical procedures related to the design, manufacture, repair and fitting of complete or partial ~~fixed and~~ removable oral and extra-oral appliances and prostheses, in accordance with this scope of practice and the clinical dental technician's approved education, training, experience and competence.

Working relationship practice standards review

A review of the following working/professional relationships practice standards was undertaken, and Council considered proposed changes to these documents:

- The professional relationships associated with the practice of dental therapy – practice standard
- Working relationship between dental hygienists and dentists/dental specialists – practice standard
- The practice of dental technology and clinical dental technology and the working relationship within the practice of dentistry-practice standard
- Working relationship between orthodontic auxiliaries and dentists/dental specialists- practice standard.

The proposed changes included whether the existing working/professional relationship for dental therapy, dental hygiene and orthodontic auxiliary practice be redefined as a 'consultative professional relationship' with no signed written agreement required. This proposal will align with the 'consultative professional relationship' that applies to oral health therapy.

The current 'working relationship' for dental technology and clinical dental technology practice can be described as 'professional relationship' between a dental technician or clinical dental technician and other health practitioners to acknowledge the professionals involved. No changes to the nature of this relationship are proposed, or to the current professional responsibilities of practitioners in this relationship.

To assist practitioners in meeting their professional responsibilities, draft guidance documents were developed for Council's consideration. It was proposed that these guidance documents would preplace the existing working/professional relationships practice standards.

Council accepted the proposal and the draft guidance documents, noting that the consultation document for the proposed changes will be presented at the 2 March 2020 meeting.

Australian Dental Council and Dental Council (NZ) Accreditation Standards Review consultation

In 2019, the Dental Council (NZ) and the Australian Dental Council reviewed the accreditation standards to ensure they remain in-line with contemporary benchmarks and expectations, while maintaining a focus on public safety. To assist with the process, external influences and stakeholder feedback were used to identify key focus areas to help guide the review. The focus areas are:

- Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Māori and Pacific Peoples health outcomes
- consumer involvement
- inter-professional learning and practice
- assessment.

Amendments are proposed to the Standards in each of these areas. Many of the proposed amendments aim to ensure the Standards are clear and easy to use.

Council approved the consultation document to be released in February 2020.

University of Otago DCLinDent condition monitoring report

Council accepted the Australian Dental Committee/Dental Council (NZ) Accreditation Committee's recommendation that conditions 4, 5, 7 and 8 of the DCLinDent Special Needs Dentistry programme accreditation have been met. The conditions were in relation to:

- ensure an appropriate level of SND dental specialist examiners on its examinations panel

- assurance that students present their complete clinical logbooks at the examinations, to support the external examiner's assessment process
- report to Council on the SND 2019 year-end examinations covering defined focus areas
- provide a roster for external placements for year 1 and 2 SND students.

Council also accepted the accreditation committee's recommendation that the updated conditions 2 and 3 have been substantially met, and that the DClinDent SND programme be granted accreditation until 31 December 2023 subject to a monitoring condition in relation to clinical outplacements.

AUT Bachelor of Oral Health 2019 Annual Report

Council accepted the ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee's recommendations that:

- recommendations 14, 15, 17 and 21 be closed, with the balance remaining open for further reporting in the 2020 annual report. AUT would be commended on the number of practitioners involved in the clinical education, the programme response to student/graduate feedback and the diversity within the student mix, in particular the level of Māori and Pasifika students.
- Monitoring conditions be placed on the AUT Bachelor of Health Science in Oral Health programme around resources and international placement agreements – to ensure that the related accreditation standards remain met.

Consultation of the proposed 2020-21 budget, fees and levies

Council consulted on the proposed 2020/21 budget, fees and levies in November 2019, with submissions closing on 17 January 2020.

A total of nine submissions were received from practitioners and stakeholders.

Whilst considering the consultation feedback, Council revisited the full year forecast and the work plan budgeted over the next two years, Council agreed to reduce the APC fees proposed in the consultation document. The fees will be published in the NZ Gazette to take effect from 1 April 2020.