

## Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting in February 2021

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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 meetings held in February 2021.

### Consultation outcome – proposed changes to the working relationship requirements for oral health practitioners with dentists, and practising conditions for dental hygiene activities

In October – December 2020, the Council consulted on the proposed changes to the working relationship requirements for oral health practitioners with dentists, and the practising conditions for dental hygiene activities.

The consultation was issued to 4,837 practitioners and 133 stakeholders seeking feedback on the following key proposals:

- to retain the scope of practice requirement for a 'working relationship' between a dental therapist, dental hygienist, orthodontic auxiliary or oral health therapist and dentist, and re-define it as a 'consultative professional relationship', but remove the need for a signed agreement
- to remove the working relationship practice standards, and replace them with guidance documents
- changes to the dental hygiene scope of practice

A total of 59 completed submissions were received.

Following its review of the submissions, the Council changed its position on the need for a mandated professional relationship as part of scope of practice requirements. As a result of new changes to the scopes of practice, a follow-up consultation document would be considered at the March 2021 meeting.

### Consultation outcome – 2021/22 budget and fees, and policies on the allocation of costs for inquiries and competence remediation

A total of 21 submissions was received from a total of 5,070 practitioners and stakeholders on the consultation on the 2021/22 proposed budget and fees.

Council approved the proposed APC fee proposed in the consultation document after considering feedback, revisiting the full year forecast, and considering the work planned and budgeted over the next two years.

Council also approved proposed registration, examination, competence programme, fitness to practice and other miscellaneous fees effective from 1 April 2021 (as set out on page 2 of the consultation document) as well as proposed changes to annotation of notes (note 2 as set out on page 2 of the consultation document). All other fees have increased by 2%.

The 2020/21 fees were published in the New Zealand Gazette on 2 February 2021 and take effect from 4 March 2021.