

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting in November 2022

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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 November 2022.

Dentist specialist competencies – Haumarutanga ahurea/Cultural safety domain consultation outcome

The Council agreed to add the Haumarutanga ahurea / Cultural safety domain, as it appears in the competencies for other oral health professions, to the dental specialist competencies effective **1 January 2024**.

This proposal was unanimously supported by submitters during the Council's September 2022 consultation.

The [updated dental specialist competencies](#) with the new Haumarutanga ahurea / Cultural safety domain, will be gazetted by the end of 2022. A comprehensive review of the dental specialist competencies will be undertaken with the Dental Board of Australia, scheduled for 2023/24.

The Council acknowledges the valuable input from Te Ao Mārama – New Zealand Māori Dental Association and the Māori Oral Health Quality Improvement Group in the development of this new domain.

University of Melbourne Graduate Certificate in Dental Therapy (Advanced Clinical Practice) accreditation

Melbourne University applied to the Council to accredit its Graduate Certificate in Dental Therapy (Advanced Clinical Practice) programme (GCDT-ACP). The accreditation review took place in July 2022. The accreditation report is available on our [website](#).

Accreditation was approved for the Melbourne GCDT-ACP as an adult restorative programme for the:

- Oral health therapy scope of practice, and
- Adult care in dental therapy scope of practice under the category of clinical guidance.

This means that on successful completion of the GCDT-ACP programme:

- oral health therapists can apply to have the adult restorative exclusion removed from their scope of practice
- dental therapists can apply for the adult care in dental therapy scope of practice and provide restorative care to adults under clinical guidance.

Completion of the programme does not change the underlying scope of practice—it allows for the same restorative procedures to be performed on patients over the age of 18 years. Following successful completion of the programme, practitioners must apply to the Council to have the exclusion removed from their scope of practice, prior to providing restorative care to patients over 18 years old.