

9 September 2011

Dear Practitioner,

## **Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Orthodontic Auxiliary Prescribed Qualifications**

Pursuant to section 12 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the “Act”), the Dental Council (“Council”) must, by a notice published in the *Gazette*, prescribe the qualification or qualifications for every scope of practice.

The Dental Council appointed an accreditation team to review the New Zealand Association of Orthodontists (NZAO): Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting Training Programme in September 2008. In response to the proposal to merge the additional scopes of practice into the general scope of practice for orthodontic auxiliaries, NZAO requested the Council to initiate a review of its original application and associated documentation against the activities of taking intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs.

Council requested the accreditation review team to reassess the programme material to ensure that the NZAO qualification for orthodontic auxiliaries meets the educational requirements to cover the activities of taking intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs.

Based on the recommendation of the accreditation review team the Council agreed, at its May 2011 meeting, that both prescribed qualifications for orthodontic auxiliaries meet the educational requirements to cover the activities of *taking intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs*.

Council is proposing that the requirement for the completion of a *Dental Council approved course for intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs* be removed from the current two prescribed qualifications i.e. *Graduate Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting, Academy of Orthodontic Assisting* and *New Zealand Association of Orthodontists, Orthodontic Auxiliary Training Programme: Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting*.

The objective of this consultation is to gather views from the sector to enable Council to make a final decision on the proposals. The Council therefore seeks comment on the proposal by **4 November 2011**.

In accordance with section 14 of the Act, copies of this letter and the consultation document have been sent to all orthodontic auxiliaries, dentists, relevant associations and societies, the Ministry of Health, District Health Boards and other organisations with an interest. This letter and attachment will also be published on the Council’s website, with a similar invitation to comment.

Responses should be sent to:

Dental Council  
PO Box 10-448  
Wellington 6143  
Fax: 04 499 1668  
Email: [consultations@dcnz.org.nz](mailto:consultations@dcnz.org.nz)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie Warner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Marie Warner  
Chief Executive

# Consultation Document

## Proposed changes to the Orthodontic Auxiliary Prescribed Qualifications

RELEASED 9 SEPTEMBER 2011  
SUBMISSIONS DUE 4 NOVEMBER 2011

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### Background

During the consultation process on the merging of the previous additional scopes of practice into the relevant general scopes of practice of dental hygiene, dental therapy and orthodontic auxiliary, the New Zealand Association of Orthodontists (NZAO) submitted that their training programme for the Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting covers the activities that were prescribed in the previous additional scopes of intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs, which were gazetted in the revised general scopes of orthodontic auxiliary as “*Taking intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs*”.

The Council advised the NZAO that their initial accreditation request was for accreditation against the general orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice and not the additional scopes of practice for orthodontic auxiliaries. NZAO then requested the Council to initiate a review of the original application and associated documentation against the activities of taking intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs.

Council agreed, at its February 2011 meeting, to request the accreditation review team of the New Zealand Association of Orthodontists: Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting Training Programme to review the NZAO’s original accreditation submission and to make a recommendation to Council whether this training programme meets the educational requirements to cover the activities of *Taking intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs*.

The review team’s recommendation to Council was that “*the radiography training was adequate for the purposes of taking intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs under supervision*”. At its meeting in May 2011 Council accepted the review team’s recommendation, and developed this consultation document to propose the change to the prescribed qualifications for the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice.

Council however noted that the programme material reviewed by the accreditation review team, i.e. Academy of Orthodontic Assisting Handbook and the on-line component of the orthodontic auxiliary course, both provided by Trapezio, are used by both existing orthodontic auxiliary registration pathways i.e. *Graduate Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting*, *Academy of Orthodontic Assisting* (also referred to as pathway 1) and *New*

*Zealand Association of Orthodontists, Orthodontic Auxiliary Training Programme: Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting* (also referred to as pathway 2). In addition, for both pathways students are required to pass the same two-day retreat assessment, which is administered by NZAO, at the end of their training to ensure competency.

Council therefore reached the conclusion that the review team's recommendation, which was based on the programme material used by both registration pathways, can be extended to also include the Graduate Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting, Academy of Orthodontic Assisting qualification (pathway 1).

## **The Proposal**

The existing prescribed qualifications for Orthodontic Auxiliaries, as published in the Notice on 17 March 2011, requires the completion of *a Dental Council approved course for intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs*.

Council agreed with the recommendation of the accreditation review team that *the radiography training was adequate for the purposes of taking intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs under supervision*, and is proposing that the requirement for Dental Council approved courses for intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs be removed from both the prescribed qualifications i.e. *Graduate Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting, Academy of Orthodontic* and *New Zealand Association of Orthodontists, Orthodontic Auxiliary Training Programme: Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting*.

The implication of the proposal is that Orthodontic Auxiliary registrants, with the Graduate Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting or the NZAO Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting, that have existing exclusions on their scope of practice for intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs, will have these exclusions removed.

Council has produced a draft Notice of the proposed prescribed qualifications for the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice (Appendix 1).

In addition Council is proposing to standardise the qualification format (as reflected in Appendix 1) by rephrasing the NZAO qualification as follows:

*Existing:*

New Zealand Association of Orthodontists, Orthodontic Auxiliary Training Programme:  
Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting

*Proposed:*

Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting, New Zealand Association of Orthodontists:  
Orthodontic Auxiliary Training Programme.

## Conclusion

Council is consulting on the proposal to amend the current prescribed qualifications for the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice, as reflected in Appendix 1, as follows:

- by removing the requirements for Dental Council approved courses for intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs; and
- rephrase the NZAO qualification to achieve a consistent format for prescribed qualifications.

Council is consulting on the proposal with persons and organisations identified in accordance with section 14 of the Act including all orthodontic auxiliaries, dentists, relevant associations and societies, the Ministry of Health, District Health Boards and other organisations with an interest. The proposal will also be published on the Council's website, with a similar invitation to comment.

The objective of the consultation is to gather views from the sector to enable Council to make a final decision on the proposals.

Council therefore seeks any comments on the proposal by **4 November 2011**.

## Discussion/Consultation points

The Council invites all stakeholders to comment on this consultation document by responding to the following questions:

1. Do you agree/disagree with the proposal to amend the prescribed qualifications for the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice; i.e. *Graduate Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting, Academy of Orthodontic and New Zealand Association of Orthodontists, Orthodontic Auxiliary Training Programme: Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting*, by deleting the requirement for Dental Council approved courses for intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs, as reflected in Appendix 1?
2. If you disagree with the proposal, please provide your reasons.
3. Do you agree/disagree with the proposal, to achieve a consistent format with other gazetted prescribed qualifications, by rephrasing the qualification?

*New Zealand Association of Orthodontists, Orthodontic Auxiliary Training Programme: Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting*

as

*Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting, New Zealand Association of Orthodontists: Orthodontic Auxiliary Training Programme*

4. If you disagree with the proposal, please provide your reasons.

# DENTAL COUNCIL

*Te Kaunihera Tiaki Niho*

## Notice of Scope of Practice

Issued by the Dental Council pursuant to section 12 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003

**Keys:**

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### Orthodontic Auxiliaries

#### *Prescribed Qualifications*

- Graduate Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting, Academy of Orthodontic Assisting; possession of a dental therapy, dental hygiene or dentistry qualification and approved experience in the provision of orthodontic auxiliary services under the direction and supervision of a dentist or dental specialist who can attest to competency<sup>1</sup>; ~~and a Dental Council approved course for Intra-oral and Extra-oral radiography.~~
- Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting, New Zealand Association of Orthodontists: Orthodontic Auxiliary Training Programme<sup>2</sup>; ~~and a Dental Council approved course for Intra-oral and Extra-oral radiography.~~

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<sup>1</sup> The Dental Council approved this prescribed qualification on 10 July 2006.

<sup>2</sup> The Dental Council approved this prescribed qualification on 15 February 2010.