

13 June 2023

Marie MacKay
Chief Executive
Dental Council of New Zealand
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WELLINGTON 6143

Kia ora Marie

Consultation on proposed recognition of Ireland Dental Council accredited dentistry programmes

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Dental Council (the Council) of New Zealand's Consultation document on the Dental Council's proposed recognition of Ireland Dental Council accredited dentistry programmes.

Thank you for your work on this matter.

Do you agree/disagree with the proposed addition of Dental Council of Ireland accredited dentistry programmes as prescribed qualifications for the New Zealand general dental practice scope of practice?

Agree

The Dental Council has clearly done the due diligence required to ensure equivalence of the programmes between New Zealand and Ireland.

It will be good for general dentists and perhaps later other oral health professionals to be able to receive recognition of their professions in both jurisdictions.

This proposal will increase the accessibility and availability of quality oral health services across the motu, which will support us in achieving the pae ora (healthy futures) goals to protect, promote and improve the health of all New Zealanders.

While streamlining the registration process will help build the oral health workforce in the immediate term, Manatū Hauora is also progressing work on the longer-term strategic direction. This will support the growth of the domestic health workforce and strengthen the other key workforce aspirations, including responsiveness, productivity, and quality.

It is important for cultural competency training to continue to be required as a part of the registration process to ensure internationally trained oral health professionals can provide quality health services to our Māori, Pacific people, and diverse communities.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Riana Clarke".

Dr Riana Clarke
National Clinical Director, Oral Health
Public Health Policy and Regulation
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui