

16 October 2012

Dear Practitioner,

**Consultation on proposed prescribed qualifications for the General Dental, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dental Technology Scopes of Practice**

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

Council granted accreditation to the Bachelor of Dental Surgery with Honours and Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery programmes, in June 2012 and December 2011 respectively.

The Bachelor of Dental Technology with Honours programme was granted accreditation in May 2009, however at the time it was not the practice of Council to Gazette honours programmes as prescribed qualifications. Council has reconsidered this practice, and decided that because honours students graduate with a different qualification from the normal undergraduate programme, the honours programmes should also be gazetted. For this reason, it is proposed to gazette the Bachelor of Dental Technology with Honours programme as a prescribed qualification.

The Dental Council is now seeking comments on the proposals to approve the following qualifications as prescribed qualifications for the relevant scopes of practice, as detailed in the consultation document enclosed:

- Bachelor of Dental Surgery with Honours
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Bachelor of Dental Technology with Honours.

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 seeks any comments on the proposals by **11 December 2012**. In accordance with section 14 of the Act copies of this letter and the consultation document have been sent to all dentists, dental specialists, dental technicians, clinical dental technicians, relevant associations and societies, the Ministry of Health, District Health Boards and other organisations with an interest. This letter and consultation document 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, appearing to read "Marie Warner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marie Warner  
Chief Executive

# Consultation Document

## Proposed prescribed qualifications for the General Dental, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dental Technology Scopes of Practice

RELEASED 16 OCTOBER 2012  
SUBMISSIONS DUE 11 DECEMBER 2012

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### Background

#### **1. University of Otago - Bachelor of Dental Surgery with Honours programme**

The University of Otago advised the Council of its intent to introduce the Bachelor of Dental Surgery with Honours (BDS(hons)) programme in 2013. This is in line with the 2010 BDS accreditation review team's recommendation, endorsed by the Accreditation Committee, and approved by Council at its meeting on 28 February 2011:

*R.16-1 The Faculty continue to work towards establishing an Honours degree course for BDS students in order to provide a formal pathway for research training and experience.*

Council initiated an accreditation review of the proposed new programme to ensure that it meets its statutory obligations of section 118 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, which relates to "prescribing the qualifications required for scopes of practice within the profession".

The 2010 BDS accreditation review team performed an independent paper review of the course documentation, to determine whether the new proposed honours programme delivers similar competencies and skills as the current accredited University of Otago BDS programme, for those graduates to competently and safely practise within the scope of practice for general dental practice.

The accreditation review team reported that *the students undertaking the Honours degree will do a research project in addition to the same clinical practice and other didactic work that is being done by the standard BDS students.* The accreditation report and the review team's recommendations were considered by the Australian Dental Council/Dental Council (NZ) accreditation committee at its May 2012 meeting.

Council, at its meeting on 11 June 2012, approved the Australian Dental Council/Dental Council (NZ) accreditation committee's recommendation:

- i. that the Bachelor of Dental Surgery with Honours programme be accredited until 31 December 2017;
- ii. with the standard requirements for annual progress reports to be submitted; and
- iii. future accreditation reviews to be conducted with the scheduled Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme reviews.

It is therefore recommended that the BDS(Hons) programme be gazetted as a prescribed qualification for the general dental scope of practice.

## **2. University of Otago - Bachelor of Dental Technology with Honours programme**

The University of Otago introduced the Bachelor of Dental Technology with Honours programme (BDentTech(Hons)), with Council granting accreditation to this programme in May 2009. The programme was part of the technology programmes' review conducted in 2010, and has been granted accreditation until December 2015.

At the time of accrediting this programme, it was not practice to Gazette honours programmes as prescribed qualifications. However, during the accreditation process of the BDS(Hons) programme, Council reconsidered this practice, and decided that because honours students graduate with a different qualification from the normal undergraduate programme, the honours programmes should also be gazetted.

It is therefore recommended that the BDentTech(Hons) programme be gazetted as a prescribed qualification for the dental technology scope of practice.

## **3. University of Otago – DClintDent (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery) programme**

During the 2011 accreditation review of the University of Otago postgraduate programmes, the University advised Council of its intention to change the MDS/MBChB(OMS) programme to a DClintDent(OMS) programme.

The current prescribed qualification for the oral and maxillofacial surgery scope of practice is the University of Otago MDS/MBChB(OMS) programme.

The review team report indicated that "The DClintDent in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is evolving to become a four year programme (2 years full-time and then 2 years half-time) *after candidates have completed basic medical and dental training*. The changes do not involve any significant variation in the content of the programme but changes to the pathway that candidates follow". The review team has proposed that this be seen as a minor change, that is an evolutionary progression of the programme.

The Council, at its meeting on 5 December 2011, considered the accreditation review report and the Australian Dental Council/Dental Council (NZ) Accreditation Committee's recommendations on the postgraduate programmes' review and site visit conducted in September 2011.

Council agreed with the accreditation report's recommendation, supported by the joint accreditation committee, that the proposed change of the MDS/MBChB (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery) programme to the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery) be regarded as *minor*.

The University of Otago Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery was granted accreditation for the period 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2016 with a review to occur in 2016, and the requirement of annual reports to the Council which demonstrate satisfactory progress on the recommendations and suggestions in the accreditation report.

The Faculty has advised the Council that the anticipated transition period between the two programmes is four years. The MDS/MBChB(OMS) programme is currently undergoing an accreditation review<sup>1</sup>, with particular focus on the change management of the students currently enrolled in the conjoint programme.

It is therefore recommended that the DCLinDent(OMS) programme be gazetted as a prescribed qualification for the oral and maxillofacial surgery scope of practice.

## **The Proposals**

Under section 12 of the Act, before a qualification can become a prescribed qualification notification of that qualification must be published in the Gazette. In addition to this formal gazetting process, the Act requires that before an authority publishes a Notice, the authority must have consulted about its proposal for the contents of this Notice.

To give effect to this requirement, and to allow applicants to seek registration in the relevant scope of practice after obtaining the qualifications listed below, the Council is proposing to gazette the following qualifications for the respective scopes of practice:

- University of Otago Bachelor of Dental Surgery with Honours as a prescribed qualification for the general dental scope of practice.
- University of Otago Bachelor of Dental Technology with Honours as a prescribed qualification for the dental technology scope of practice.
- University of Otago Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery as a prescribed qualification for the oral and maxillofacial surgery scope of practice.

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<sup>1</sup> Accreditation expires 31 December 2012.

## **Conclusion**

Council has produced a draft Notice of the prescribed qualifications for the general dental scope of practice (Appendix 1); the dental technology scope of practice (Appendix 2); and the oral and maxillofacial surgery scope of practice (Appendix 3).

Council is consulting on the proposals with persons and organisations identified in accordance with section 14 of the Act including all dentists, dental specialists, dental technicians, clinical dental technicians, 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 **11 December 2012**.

## **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 gazette the University of Otago Bachelor of Dental Surgery with Honours as a prescribed qualification for the general dental scope of practice? If you disagree, please provide your reasons.
2. Do you agree/disagree with the proposal to gazette the University of Otago Bachelor of Dental Technology with Honours as a prescribed qualification for the dental technology scope of practice? If you disagree, please provide your reasons.
3. Do you agree/disagree with the proposal to gazette the University of Otago Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery as a prescribed qualification for the oral and maxillofacial surgery scope of practice? If you disagree, please provide your reasons.

# DENTAL COUNCIL

*Te Kaunihera Tiaki Niho*

## Notice of Prescribed Qualifications

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

**Key:**

Red text: new additions

### *Scope of Practice for General Dental Practice*

#### Prescribed Qualifications

- Bachelor of Dental Surgery, University of Otago; or
- **Bachelor of Dental Surgery with Honours, University of Otago; or**
- an Australian Dental Council (ADC) accredited undergraduate dental degree from an ADC accredited dental school in Australia; or
- a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CDA) accredited undergraduate dental degree from a CDA accredited dental school in the USA or Canada; or
- a General Dental Council (GDC) accredited undergraduate dental degree from a GDC accredited dental school in the UK, or Commonwealth as listed below:

<u>Dental School</u>	<u>Dates of recognition</u>
Western Cape	Before 1 January 1998
Hong Kong	Before 1 January 2001
Singapore	Before 1 January 2001
Witwatersrand	Before 1 January 2001
Pretoria	Before 1 January 2001
Stellenbosch	Before 1 January 2001
Medical University of South Africa	Between 1 January 1997 And 31 December 2000
Malaysia	Between 1 January 1997 And 31 December 2000;

or

- a five year undergraduate dental degree; a pass in the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations; or
- a five year undergraduate dental degree; a pass in the Australian Dental Council licensing examinations; or
- a five year undergraduate dental degree; a pass in the USA licensing examinations.

**DENTAL COUNCIL**  
*Te Kaunihera Tiaki Nihō*

**Notice of Prescribed Qualifications**

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

<b>Key:</b> Red text: new additions
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***Scope for Dental Technology Practice***

***Prescribed Qualifications***

- Bachelor of Dental Technology, University of Otago; or
- **Bachelor of Dental Technology with Honours, University of Otago; or**
- Diploma in Dental Technology (issued by a New Zealand educational institution) and commenced prior to 18 September 2004; or
- an approved overseas dental technology qualification, plus a pass in the New Zealand Dental Technicians Registration Examination.



**DENTAL COUNCIL**  
*Te Kaunihera Tiaki Niho*

**Notice of Prescribed Qualifications**

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

**Key:**  
Red text: new additions

***Specialist Scopes of Practice***

***Scope of Practice for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Specialists***

**Prescribed Qualifications**

- MDS/MBChB (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery), University of Otago; or
- **DCLinDent (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery), University of Otago<sup>2</sup>; or**
- an ADC accredited MDS or MDSc or DCLinDent in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery from an ADC accredited Australian University; and a medical degree from a medical school listed in the WHO World Directory of Medical Schools or the ECFMG Faimer Directory; or
- Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery)<sup>3</sup>; or
- registration in oral and maxillofacial surgery with the General Medical Council, UK; or
- Board certification in oral and maxillofacial surgery in a USA or Canadian state and possession of a medical degree from a medical school listed in the WHO World Directory of Medical Schools or the ECFMG Faimer Directory and dental degree; or
- two years or more of full time equivalent postgraduate training in the specialty at a recognised tertiary academic institution or equivalent; and evidence of research activity; and a pass in the New Zealand Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Specialist Examination.

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<sup>2</sup> Entry criteria require completed undergraduate dentistry and medicine degrees.

<sup>3</sup> Conferred from 15 March 2012.