

Fitness to practise and fitness for registration policy

Approved by	Council
Date approved	June 2015

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to ensure a consistent and fair approach to assessing whether an oral health practitioner is fit to practise, in order to protect the health and safety of the public.

Scope

This policy applies to registered oral health practitioners, and all applicants for registration, including New Zealand graduates.

Policy

1. Oral health practitioners, and applicants for registration, will be considered fit to practise under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 ("the Act") provided that:
 - (a) He or she satisfies Council that he or she is able to communicate effectively. This will be assessed in accordance with Council's Policy on English language requirements and tests.
 - (b) He or she satisfies Council that he or she is able to communicate and comprehend English sufficiently to protect the health and safety of the public. This will be assessed in accordance with Council's Policy on English language requirements and tests.
 - (c) He or she has not been convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment for a term of three months or longer which reflects adversely on his or her fitness to practise.
 - (d) He or she does is not affected by and mental or physical condition which would render him or her unable to perform the functions required for the practise of dentistry.
 - (e) He or she is not the subject of professional disciplinary proceedings, where those proceedings reflect adversely on his or her fitness to practise.
 - (f) He or she is not under investigation in respect of a matter that may be the subject of professional disciplinary proceedings and that investigation reflects adversely on his or her fitness to practise.
 - (g) He or she is not subject to an order which reflects adversely on his or her fitness to practise.
 - (h) Council has no reason to believe that the applicant may endanger the health and safety of the public.
2. It is mandatory for practitioners, managers and employers of practitioners, and the Medical Officer of Health, to notify the Registrar if their own or another oral health practitioner's fitness to practise is in doubt because of some physical or mental condition.
 - 2.1. Notification to the Registrar must be made in writing.
 - 2.2. Annual renewal phase.

References

1. Policy on English Language Requirements and Tests.
2. Management of Oral Health Practitioners with Conditions Affecting their Fitness to Practise.