

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meetings during August 2017

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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 meeting held on 7 August 2017.

Council appointments

The Minister of Health, Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman appointed the following members to the Council:

- Dr Robin Whyman (dentist) reappointed to 1 June 2020
- Dr Michael Holdaway (dentist) appointed to 20 July 2020

Associate Professor Lyndie Foster Page stepped down in July 2017 after serving on the Council since December 2015.

The Council also made the following appointments:

- John Aarts as the Chair of the CPD Advisory Committee, and Council representative on the joint ADC/DC(NZ) accreditation committee for a three year term
- Assoc. Prof Lyndie Foster Page (senior dental academic), Council representative on the joint ADC/DC(NZ) accreditation committee for a three year term

Professor Robert Love's term on the joint accreditation committee ended in August 2017.

The Council would like to acknowledge Lyndie Foster Page and Robert Love, for their services and significant contribution to the Council and joint accreditation committee, respectively.

Media Policy

The Council approved the new Media Policy.

Review of registration of additional qualifications and titles policy

The Council confirmed its decision made in February 2017 to reflect the public register in accordance to section 138(1)(b) of the Act the "*particulars of the qualifications by virtue of which the health practitioner is registered*".

Accordingly, Council agreed in principle to:

- Remove additional qualifications from the Register.
- Revoke the following policies:
 - Registration of Additional Qualifications and Titles, dated July 2005
 - Dental Council Guideline: Use of Qualifications and Titles

The proposed implementation plan for recording and displaying qualifications (including additional qualifications) was also approved. This included agreeing that only the practitioner's primary qualification (year) would only be published on the register, followed by the description of whether it was registered by individual assessment or NZDREX.

RCPA – Forensic Odontology

The Council considered the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia's proposal to establish a forensic odontology scope of practice in New Zealand.

Council has deferred making a decision pending further preliminary information being sought on the nature of forensic odontology services in New Zealand.

Patient information and records practice standard

The draft Patient information and records practice standard was approved for consultation. This would be issued for public consultation on 16 August 2017, with submissions closing on 11 October 2017.

Consultation – 2017/18 four month practising fee and disciplinary levy for oral health therapists

The oral health therapy (OHT) scope of practice comes into effect on 1 November 2017. No fees or levies have been consulted on or published in relation to oral health therapy.

Accordingly, Council agreed to consult on the proposed four month practising fee and disciplinary levy for oral health therapists with all dental therapists, dental hygienists, AUT, The University of Otago, NZ Dental Association, NZ Dental and Oral Health Therapists Association and Te Ao Marama.

The consultation will be from 1 August -12 September 2017.