

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting 12 November 2018

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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 in November 2018.

University of Otago – postgraduate programmes accreditation 2018

The University of Otago offers 12 postgraduate programmes that are accredited for registration as a dental specialist or a clinical dental technician with the Dental Council in New Zealand. These include the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry programmes in 10 disciplines, a Master of Community Dentistry and a Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology.

A joint postgraduate accreditation review was conducted, with the site visit from 16 to 19 July 2018 at the University of Otago Faculty of Dentistry in Dunedin. The site evaluation team (SET) interviewed stakeholders that included:

- faculty and postgraduate programme staff
- programme leads
- postgraduate students
- recent graduates
- relevant professional bodies.

This is the first New Zealand accreditation where the new Dental Council (NZ)/Dental Board of Australia dental specialist competencies were used as a benchmark for the dental specialist curriculums and assessments.

The SET consisted of a core team that reviewed all the generic accreditation standards, with discipline specific groups comprising of an international academic primarily from Australia, and a New Zealand practising dental specialist from each discipline who focussed on the individual curriculum and assessment aspects of the programmes under review. This significantly strengthened the review process with the relevant discipline expertise available to inform the process.

Accreditation outcomes

The SET concluded that the following eight postgraduate programmes met all the accreditation standards, and were granted accreditation until 31 December 2023:

- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (endodontics)
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (oral pathology)
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (oral surgery)
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (orthodontics)
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (periodontology)
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (prosthodontics)
- Master of Community Dentistry
- Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology.

The Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (paediatric dentistry) programme was also granted a five year accreditation period until 31 December 2023 conditional on increased clinically immersive hospital

sessions and/or placements being put in place by May 2019. The reason for the condition is to increase the exposure of paediatric postgraduate students to the management of acute paediatric dental emergencies and complex paediatric cases, and experience in hospital management of paediatric patients.

DClinDent special needs programme

The programme was granted accreditation with conditions until 31 March 2020.

The SET considered that the DClinDent special needs programme did not meet the programme of study accreditation standard, and substantially met the assessment standard.

Due to the nature and extent of the shortcomings identified, the assessors considered this programme has significant shortcomings that support a shorter accreditation period. However, the assessors considered the programme can put the appropriate measures in place to address these shortfalls within a reasonable timeframe to ensure graduates are competent at completion of the programme.

Key concerns related to the special needs dentistry (SND) programme were:

- exposure to an adequate number and range of SND patients, and that the treatment complexity available to students appears to be on the lower end
- insufficient supervision of students by SND dental specialists, in particularly during outplacements. Where dentists supervises SND students, the dentists must have extensive SND experience.
- limited opportunities for joint treatment planning with other restorative dental specialist disciplines, such as endodontics, periodontics and prosthodontics.
- concerns related to the final examination processes.

Conditions were placed on the programme relating to: establish appropriate outplacement opportunities for all SND students; revisiting and strengthening its final examination process and assuring SND external examiner participation, with an external examiner report to the Council confirming that the issues identified have been addressed. The last condition must be reported on by 31 January 2020.

Oral and maxillofacial surgery programme

The programme was not granted accreditation. The SET considered that based on the evidence provided the accreditation standards related to the programme of study and assessments were not met.

The key concerns by the team were:

- A medical degree is not required for entry into the DClinDent OMFS programme. Within the current curriculum design, it is unclear how the programme will meet the requirements of OMFS training without the completion of a medical degree before the higher surgical training in this programme. Insufficient evidence was produced to demonstrate sufficient medical teaching of students in the absence of a medical degree. An educational approach that relied on customisable education according to the needs of the specific student, particularly whether they have completed their medical training before entering the programme or not, was described. However, this was not documented in the handbook or the primary submission document, and no evidence of how this would work was given.
- Insufficient evidence was provided to ensure all the OMFS attributes and competencies required would be attained through the course – both didactically and clinically.
- The concerns about the very limited involvement of medical teaching and clinical staff extend to assessments.
- There is no evidence of contemporary external input or review of the programme, or benchmarking against international contemporary programmes.

The assessors identified a number of areas that the programme must address to enable the programme to meet the required accreditation standards. This will allow the programme to address the deficiencies. The Faculty can resubmit the programme for accreditation once they consider that the accreditation standards are met. Revisiting the accreditation of the programme can then occur. There was no active DClinDent OMFS student in the programme at the time of the visit.

Conditions common to all programmes

Conditions applicable to all the accredited postgraduate programmes were placed relating to:

- ongoing monitoring during the dental school building project
- embedding of cultural competence into the postgraduate programmes
- review and strengthening of the assessment strategies and standard-setting procedures
- correction and update of outdated or misleading registration information in the course materials.

AUT Bachelor of Health Science in Oral Health accreditation 2018

Council accepted the ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee's recommendation to re-accredit the Auckland University of Technology Bachelor of Health Science (oral health) programme until 31 December 2023.