

TITLE: **Qualifications for Specialist Registration under Sections 102(1)(b) and (c) of the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001*.**

BACKGROUND: The Dental Board of Queensland ("the Board") is responsible under the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001* ("the Act") to ensure that only safe and competent dental practitioners are registered to provide dental services.

REFERENCES: *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001*

Section 102 (1) prescribes that "*An applicant for specialist registration in a specialty is qualified for specialist registration in a specialty if...*

- (b) the applicant has a qualification in the specialty that is substantially equivalent to, or based on similar competencies to that required for, a current Australian or New Zealand qualification; or*
- (c) the applicant has passed a qualifying examination in the specialty set by or for or recognised by, the Board.*

Section 102 (2) prescribes that "*In deciding whether subsection (1)(b) is satisfied, the Board may have regard to the following-*

- (a) the advice and recommendation of-*
 - (i) an entity recognised by the Board as competent to assess qualifications in the specialty; or*
 - (ii) an entity responsible for accrediting courses, or accrediting institutions to educate persons for the specialty;*
- (b) the attributes of the course leading to the applicant's qualification".....*

Dental Practitioners Registration Regulation 2001

POLICY: These sections of the Act and this policy are applicable to persons applying for specialist registration when those persons have qualifications other than those qualifications listed in the Regulation.

The Act requires that such persons seeking registration must have qualifications substantially equivalent to current Australian and New Zealand qualifications. The Board recognises the Australian Dental Council ("ADC") as the authority that assesses the standards of, and accredits Australian dental qualifications and issues the certificates of dental specialist equivalence for overseas trained dental specialists. The Board also recognises the Dental Council of New Zealand ("DCNZ") as the authority that assesses the standards of, and accredits New Zealand dental qualifications.

Consequently, the Board will only accept qualifications under section 102(1)(b) if the ADC has issued a certificate of dental specialist equivalence.

The Board will accept new programme accreditation by the ADC or the DCNZ as an indication of substantial equivalence.