

TITLE: **Qualifications for Dental Auxiliary Registration under Sections 133C(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: 1. *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001*

Section 133C(1) prescribes that:

"An applicant for dental auxiliary registration is qualified for registration if-

.....

- (b) the applicant has a qualification 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 profession set by or for or recognised by, the Board.*

Section 133C(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 profession; or*
 - (ii) an entity responsible for accrediting courses, or accrediting institutions to educate persons for the profession;*
- (b) the attributes of the course leading to the applicant's qualification".....*

POLICY: 1. Sections 133C(1)(b) and (c) of the Act and the policy are applicable to persons applying for dental auxiliary registration as dental therapists and dental hygienists when those applicants have qualifications other than recent and fully accredited Australian and New Zealand qualifications.

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 auxiliary qualifications and the Dental Council of New Zealand ("DCNZ") as the authority that assesses the standards of, and accredits New Zealand dental auxiliary qualifications.

(a) Consequently, the Board will only accept qualifications under section 133C(1)(b) if the ADC or the DCNZ has advised that to its knowledge the applicant's qualification is substantially equivalent to current Australian or New Zealand dental auxiliary qualifications.

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

(b) For dental auxiliaries who are applying for registration under section 133C(1)(c), any qualifying examination recognised by the Australian Dental Council will be recognised by the Board. The ADC has recognised:

- for dental hygiene, the following examinations:
 - TAFE Qualifying Examination for Dental Hygienists, conducted by TAFESA for the Dental Board of South Australia.
 - Dental Hygiene Equivalency Assessment, conducted by Curtin University for the Dental Board of Western Australia
 - New Zealand Dental Hygiene Registration Examination conducted by the Dental Council of New Zealand.

- for dental therapy, the following examination:
 - New Zealand Dental Therapy Registration Examination conducted by the Dental Council of New Zealand.