



Dietitians Board

Second Consultation on Scope of Practice

Released: Friday 17 June 2016

Submissions Due: 5.00pm 28 July 2016

Purpose of this paper

1. In accordance with section 14 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (“HPCA Act”), the Board is consulting with practitioners and stakeholders on the proposal to amend the scope of practice for dietitians. The Board has a statutory obligation to consult before publishing an amended scope of practice in the Gazette.
2. The Board’s first consultation on a draft revised scope of practice closed on 2 May 2016. Twenty-one submissions were received from stakeholders and individuals. These were reviewed by the Board’s Registration, Assessment and Education Committee and options presented to the Board at its meeting on 27 May 2016.
3. Following further discussion, the Board has developed two draft scopes of practice upon which it is seeking further comment.
4. The consultation period commences on 17 June 2016 and all submissions must be received by 5.00pm on 28 July 2016.

Current Scope of Practice

5. The Dietitians Board (in NZ) has gazetted one Scope of Practice i.e. **Dietitian**.
Dietitians: ‘apply scientific knowledge about food and nutrition to individuals and groups in states of health and disease to promote optimal health outcomes within the social, economic, and cultural context of the New Zealand (NZ) population’.

Board’s Intention

6. A scope of practice may be described in any way that the Board thinks fit (section 11(2) HPCA Act). The current scope of practice is brief and has been unchanged since the HPCA Act came into force over 10 years ago. As was the case in the first consultation round, the Board’s intention is to refine the scope of practice to provide greater clarity as to the range of dietetic practice and to include the prescribing endorsement.
7. The Board considers that a more defined scope of practice will help the public, employers and practitioners understand what constitutes practising dietetics by a health practitioner on the Board’s register and when an annual practising certificate (“APC”) should be held.

Revised drafts

8. The Board was very grateful for respondents' feedback on the first consultation. As a result of the comments and suggestions received, the Board refined its thinking and developed two options for a revised scope of practice.
9. The Board welcomes comment on the options and would find it particularly helpful if respondents could choose a preferred option (or recommend a merged option) from the two set out below.

Option 1: Scope of Practice: Dietitian

Dietitians are registered health practitioners who apply scientific knowledge about food and nutrition to individuals, groups and populations in states of health and disease in order to promote optimal health outcomes within the environmental, social, economic and cultural context of New Zealand.

Dietitians with a prescribing endorsement are able to prescribe Special Foods and approved nutrition-related medicines.

The practice of dietetics is broader than clinical, public health and food service management practice; it includes education, research, evaluation and management.

Dietitians are accountable for ensuring that their practice is consistent with their education and meets the competence standards set by the Dietitians Board and relevant legislative requirements.

Option 2: Scope of Practice: Dietitian

Dietitians are registered health practitioners who translate complex scientific food and nutrition evidence into practical strategies in partnership with individuals, whānau, communities and populations. They use their knowledge and interdisciplinary judgment, in a variety of contexts, to assess food and nutrition needs and to design, implement and evaluate strategies to promote health and wellbeing.

Dietitians with a prescribing endorsement are able to prescribe Special Foods and approved nutrition-related medicines.

The practice of dietetics is broader than clinical, public health and food service management.

Dietitians who apply their food, nutrition and/or health expertise in any context are considered to be practising dietetics.

Dietitians are accountable for ensuring that their practice is consistent with their education and meets the competence standards set by the Dietitians Board and relevant legislative requirements.

Summary

10. The Dietitians Board is conducting a second round of consultation on its proposal to amend the scope of practice for dietitians.
11. The Board invites practitioners and stakeholders to make submissions on the two options presented above.

How to have your say

12. Your views on the proposed change are welcome. If you wish to make submissions, please provide them in writing by **5.00pm 28 July 2016**. The Board does not guarantee that submissions received at the Board's offices after this date will be considered.

Submissions can be sent to:

The Registrar
Dietitians Board
PO Box 9644
Wellington 6141

Email: dietitians@dietitiansboard.org.nz
Phone: 04 474 0746