

Meeting

Combined Dental Agreement – 2025/26 Pricing Review (second meeting)

Location:	Online (Microsoft Teams)		
Date:	19 June 2025	Time:	3:00 – 5:00pm
Chairperson:	Deborah Woodley, National Director Starting Well	Minutes by:	Health NZ
Attendees:	<p>Representative Bodies Collective</p> <p>Eru McGregor (Te Ao Mārama)</p> <p>Anishma Ram (New Zealand Oral Health Association (NZOHA))</p> <p>Abdul Aziz (Pasifika Dental Association (PDA))</p> <p>New Zealand Dental Association (NZDA)</p> <p>Ngareka Bensemman (Marsden Cove Dental)</p> <p>David Excell (Eastbourne Dental Centre)</p> <p>Mo Amso (NZDA CEO)</p> <p>Health New Zealand (participants)</p> <p>Saskia Booiman (Group Manager – Young People)</p> <p>Geoff Hunt (Approving Dental Officer and hospital dentist at Health NZ Hutt Valley)</p> <p>Health New Zealand (Observers/Secretariat)</p> <p>Justine Mecchia (System Design Manager – Oral Health)</p> <p>Kylie McCosh (Principal Service Development Manager – Oral Health)</p> <p>Alana Hislop (Service Development Advisor – Oral Health)</p>		
Apologies:	<p>Justin Wall (Te Rōpu Niho Ora)</p> <p>Shash Patel (Absolute Dental)</p> <p>Arun Natarajan (Paediatric specialist dentist and Happy Smiles)</p> <p>Simon Templeman (Simply Dental)</p> <p>Lisa Gestro (Group Manager – System Integration, Te Manawa Taki Region)</p> <p>Bart Eisenbarth (Approving Dental Officer, Te Manawa Taki, participating as Health New Zealand)</p>		

Agenda

Item no:	Details	Speaker
1	Karakia	Deborah Woodley
2	Approve minutes from pricing review meeting (12 June) and actions	Deborah Woodley
3	Feedback from remaining Representative Bodies on pricing options	Representative Bodies
4	Process to conclude annual review and next steps	Saskia Booiman
5	Karakia	Deborah Woodley

Notes

Karakia and approve minutes from pricing review meeting (12 June) and actions

- Deborah Woodley opened the meeting with karakia and welcomed everyone to the second pricing review meeting for the Combined Dental Agreement (CDA) 2025/26 Annual Review.
- All attendees in the meeting approved the minutes from the first pricing review meeting (12 June) to be published on the Health NZ website.
- Deborah and Saskia Booiman discussed the actions from the previous meeting. Saskia provided an update on the CDA Operational Guidelines and advised that a copy will be circulated to all Representative Bodies for review in July 2025, rather than June 2025 as previously discussed and stated in the minutes.
- Action:** Health NZ to share a draft of the updated CDA Operational Guidelines to all Representative Bodies by the end of July 2025 for review and feedback.

Feedback from remaining Representative Bodies on pricing options

- Mo Amso thanked Health NZ for their feedback on the annual review summary that NZDA had written and advised that NZDA will be publishing the summary in an upcoming issue of the NZDA magazine.
- NZDA shared feedback from their recent member survey (of which 323 members responded) on the proposed uplift options for 2025/26 and that surveyed members overwhelmingly (93%) preferred the 3% uplift applied uniformly across all codes, rather than differential uplift for lab-based fee codes. NZDA noted that there is still a desire from the members for lab-based fees to be increased.
- NZDA confirmed that they are unable to accept the 3% uplift that was offered. The reasons for this include:
 - Primary care receiving 6.4% uplift this year and they are also able to charge co-payments. It was also noted that primary care received more last year.
 - The prices paid for CDA services barely cover the cost of materials, let alone other costs.
 - There have been minimal uplifts applied to the CDA going back many years.
 - The NZDA Cost of Dentistry report outlines that funding should almost double.
- The NZDA noted that they have the right to take pricing negotiations to mediation if an outcome cannot be agreed.

9. Eru McGregor shared that primary care uplift of 6.4% when dental is offered a 3% uplift does not sit right and agreed that the prices paid through the CDA barely cover the material costs.
10. Anishma Ram shared that NZOHA also declined the uplift offered and agreed with the comments raised by NZDA.
11. Abdul Aziz confirmed that PDA will not accept the 3% uplift offered and agreed with comments raised by NZDA.
12. Ngareka Bensemman agreed with previous reflections and comments. She noted that it is unfortunate that after a thorough and time-consuming annual review process for everyone, providers are only offered a 3% uplift, which is similar to 2 to 3% uplifts offered in previous years without an annual review process established.
13. Deborah thanked everyone for their feedback and noted Representative Bodies had been very clear on their position and that she will escalate this discussion within Health NZ.
14. **Action:** Deborah Woodley to escalate the position of Representative Bodies of Health NZ's agreed 3% uplift urgently within Health NZ.

Process to conclude annual review and next steps

15. Deborah reiterated that Health NZ is operating in a fiscally constrained environment, and budgets have been set for 2025/26, therefore it is highly unlikely additional funding will be made available for the CDA. Deborah provided further context to the budget setting process.
16. In response to the Representative Bodies feedback, Saskia proposed an option that Representative Bodies could agree to implement the 3% uplift now, without prejudice while negotiations continue. This would ensure that CDA providers receive an increased rate from 1 July 2025 and do not miss out on uplift funding whilst negotiations continue. Health NZ will not offer a backdated uplift or make retrospective payments.
17. Representative Bodies responded to the proposed option and expressed that they would be nervous that agreeing to implement the 3% uplift would be seen as acceptance of the offer and impact their negotiating position.
18. NZDA advised that they would require the offer in writing, for legal and board review.
19. **Action:** Health NZ to put in writing the offer of 3% uplift without prejudice while negotiations continue and send to all Representative Bodies.
20. Deborah summarised the key messages and actions from the discussion, thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting with karakia.

Actions

Details	Due Date
Health NZ to circulate minutes from this meeting to all Representative Bodies and seek approval to publish the minutes on the Health NZ webpage	June 2025
Health NZ to share a draft of the updated CDA Operational Guidelines to all Representative Bodies by the end of July 2025 for review and feedback	31 July 2025

Deborah Woodley to escalate the position of Representative Bodies of Health NZ`s agreed 3% uplift urgently within Health NZ	Completed
Health NZ to put in writing the offer of 3% uplift without prejudice while negotiations continue and send to all Representative Bodies	23 June 2025