

Minutes

Combined Dental Agreement 2026/27 Annual Review

Meeting 1

Location:	Online (Microsoft Teams)		
Date:	17 December 2025	Time:	3:30 – 5:00pm
Chairperson:	Deborah Woodley, Director Starting Well	Minutes by:	Health NZ
Attendees:	<p>Representative Bodies</p> <p>Mo Amso (New Zealand Dental Association (NZDA))</p> <p>Ngareka Bensemman (NZDA)</p> <p>David Excell (NZDA)</p> <p>Samuel Carrington (New Zealand Oral Health Association (NZOHA))</p> <p>Eru McGregor (Te Ao Mārama)</p> <p>Justin Wall (Te Rōpū Niho Ora)</p> <p>Health New Zealand (Participants)</p> <p>Saskia Booiman (Group Manager – Young People)</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>Anishma Ram (NZOHA)</p> <p>Simon Templeman (NZDA)</p> <p>Shash Patel (NZDA)</p> <p>Arun Natarajan (NZDA)</p> <p>Abdul Aziz (Pasifika Dental Association (PDA))</p>		

Agenda

Item no:	Details	Speaker
1	Introductions	All
2	Proposed approach to 2026/27 CDA Annual Review	Saskia Booiman

3	Annual review topics for consideration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health New Zealand • NZDA • NZOHA • Pasifika Dental Association • Te Ao Mārama • Te Rōpū Niho Ora 	All
4	Proposed meeting schedule & next steps	Saskia Booiman

Notes

Introductions

1. Justine Mecchia opened the meeting with karakia and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the annual review for the Combined Dental Agreement (CDA) for 2026/27.
2. A round of whakawhanaungatanga was completed and Deborah Woodley joined the meeting and continued as Chair.
3. Deborah provided reflections on the outcomes of the 2025/26 CDA annual review and addressed the Review of Oral Health Services for 0–17-year-olds (the Review) that Health New Zealand |Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) has committed to.
4. Saskia Booiman provided additional information on progress with the Review, including that Health NZ will contract an external Supplier to lead the Review and a reminder that applications for the Technical Working Group close on Friday 19 December 5pm. Health NZ anticipate both the external Supplier and Technical Working Group to be confirmed in February 2026.
5. Justin Wall raised a question on data and lack of visibility of volumes data. Saskia confirmed that Health NZ does collect claims-based data for the CDA, and all Representative Bodies can email the national oral health team with a data request.

Proposed approach to 2026/27 CDA Annual Review

6. Saskia shared that Health NZ is proposing a light touch approach to 2026/27 annual review while the Review is underway that includes:
 - Consideration of operational issues and price only for 2026/27
 - Deferral of any issues in scope of the Review for discussion at a future annual review if not resolved through the Review
 - Deborah to continue as the interim chair for 2026/27 annual review discussions
 - One annual review process with combined meetings with all Representative Bodies.
7. Health NZ representatives at annual review will continue to include Approving Dental Officers, Regional Planning Funding and Outcomes, and Saskia on behalf of the National Starting Well Directorate. Health NZ will confirm the Approving Dental Officer and Regional representatives by the end of January 2026.

8. **Action:** Health NZ to confirm the Approving Dental Officer and Regional representatives by the end of January 2026.

Annual Review topics for consideration

9. Saskia shared Health NZ's proposed topics for consideration during 2026/27 CDA annual review. These include new or strengthened contract clauses and changes to the annual review terms of reference for future annual reviews.
10. New or strengthened contract clauses include:
 - CDA onboarding process and service area provisions
 - Corporate sponsorship - prohibiting financial incentives or additional benefits to gain access to schools
 - Audit
 - Changes to scope of practice
 - Changes in practice ownership.
11. Deborah invited the Representative Bodies to share their proposed topics for consideration in the 2026/27 CDA annual review.
12. All Representative Bodies shared that they haven't engaged with or surveyed their members yet and will come back in the new year with their proposed topics. There was feedback from the Representative Bodies in support of looking into the audit processes, corporate sponsorship and changes to scope of practice.
13. **Action:** Representative Bodies to discuss with their members and collate proposed topics for 2026/27 CDA annual review.

Proposed meeting schedule and next steps

14. Saskia shared the proposed meeting schedule for 2026/27 CDA annual review and reiterated that the schedule considers the requirements within the terms of reference and the intention to run a minimal process while the wider Review is underway. It was proposed that all Representative Bodies are required to submit a collated list of topics for 2026/27 CDA annual review to Health NZ by 23 January 2026. Feedback was shared that this date would be challenging with the Christmas close period and was therefore revised to 5 February 2026.
15. **Action:** All Representative Bodies to submit a collated list of topics for 2026/27 CDA annual review to AnnualReview_CDA@TeWhatuOra.govt.nz by 5 February 2026.
16. Following on from receiving the lists of topics, Health NZ will then confirm the topics that will be discussed in 2026/27 annual review. There will be a meeting scheduled for March 2026 to discuss operational topics and a meeting in June to discuss price changes if an uplift is confirmed.
17. The group shared their preference for meeting dates and times. Health NZ will schedule the next meeting for March 2026 and provide sufficient notice.
18. **Action:** Health NZ to schedule the next CDA annual review meeting for March 2026 to discuss operational topics.

19. Saskia provided a reminder on key dates to achieve any changes to the CDA for 1 July, these included:
- Minor changes to the CDA that require a change in HSAAP (Health Sector Agreements and Payments) (outside of price) must be agreed no later than **31 March** for a **1 July** implementation date.
 - Minor changes to the CDA agreement template that don't impact HSAAP must be agreed no later than **1 May** for a **1 July** implementation date.
 - Prices can be confirmed in ~mid-late June for a **1 July** implementation date.
20. Deborah thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and safe holiday period.

Actions

Details	Due Date
Health NZ to confirm the Approving Dental Officer and Regional representatives by the end of January 2026.	January 2026
Representative Bodies to discuss with their members and collate proposed topics for 2026/27 CDA annual review.	January/February 2026
All Representative Bodies to submit a collated list of topics for 2026/27 CDA annual review to Health NZ (AnnualReview_CDA@TeWhatuOra.govt.nz) by 5 February 2026.	5 February 2026
Health NZ to schedule the next CDA annual review meeting for March 2026 to discuss operational topics.	December 2026
Representative Bodies to approve Minutes to be published on the Health NZ webpage.	March 2026