



CCC PROCESS FEEDBACK

ANONYMOUS OVERSEAS QUALIFIED CANDIDATE

I find the NZ CCC process for a peer review style exam to be very demanding, as I believe it should be to maintain a high standard. The exam was thorough and required study as well as practical experience for preparation. The feedback from the examiner was very precise and useful. The information provided by the NZ Audiological Society for preparation was extremely helpful for the oral part of the exam. However, the guidelines for what was expected on the practical part of the exam could have been more comprehensive. Often in the clinic we have to settle for the “big picture” when performing diagnostics. It is not always possible to get all the details because of time, limited cooperation and/or motivation of the patient. A practical peer review/exam that requires very specific details for passing should have very precise criteria on what is expected prior to performance. Undue stress can occur when there is not enough time to complete the required elements of the practical and oral parts of the exam in the time set. Having said that, I realize that I was one of the first to use the new format and changes may have occurred in the exam process since then. To reiterate, I applaud the Society for maintaining a high standard of competence in the practice of Audiology in New Zealand.

JILL BEECH

We have not had difficulty so far with the new format of exam. As far as an employer is concerned, from a personal perspective one important thing is to get involved with the candidates application study. I have found that they rely a lot on what emphasis the employer puts on the amount of study and preparation.

The most expensive part is going to the hospital and practicing testing pre school children. We have had a very good system with the local audiologist where we go and do a number of days clinics at no charge. We test the children independently and do not involve the Charge Audiologist. So, we went up and did a total of about 2 to 3 weeks paed's per candidate— particularly with Erica as she had not had as much experience as Karen.— but we HAD TO PUT THE WORK IN. We used the Uni protocols very diligently and asked questions whenever we were uncertain.

I think the upshot is that the employer has to be a good guide and that the candidate has to work hard to pass – the benefits are a sense of pride and gives us a confidence in our professionals clinical work.

LEONARD POON

Stressful but bearable. Surprised at depth of knowledge plumbed in oral exam – questions regarding the P300 potential/mismatch negativity and hearing aid advances over the last four years come to mind here. The examiner's approach was relaxed but thorough. Written feedback was comprehensive – perhaps a little more oral feedback at the time of examination would also be

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helpful. Overall, did highlight the weaker areas of my knowledge and clinical approach, so worthwhile from that standpoint.

ERICA HANSEN

Overall, I thought it was a helpful process for learning about funding and rehabilitation resources that I was not familiar with before moving to New Zealand. I found the NZAS website very helpful in guiding and providing relevant contact information during my preparation for the exam. On the day of the exam, my tester was very kind and did what could be done to put me at ease. We finished the testing in one day but were slightly pressed for time at the end during the oral portion. The test was relevant to the setting I work in but did not include some of the areas I had studied – eg. vestibular. In hindsight I didn't need to get as stressed as I did about it and I would have slept better the night before. 😊

JOEL ZHANG

My name is Joel Zhang. I am an overseas trained audiologist who started working at Dilworth Hearing in 2005. I was trained at the University of Hong Kong (two-year audiology programme), and worked for two years as an educational audiologist in Singapore. Previous to this I worked with hearing impaired children in China (for eight years).

Because I did not have a NZ recognised CCC I had to go through the process of obtaining an MNZAS CCC. I feel that obtaining my CCC was a process of growth in my clinical skills, my competence and confidence. Of course from time to time there was stress through the process, especially when exploring unfamiliar areas and dealing with unfamiliar case managements. I particularly felt stressed approaching the date of the examination.

Generally, the experience was very positive to me and I was very glad to be able to be enrolled in the CCC evaluation soon after I joined Dilworth Hearing. It allowed me to see the variety of patients I did not see in Singapore and China, and means that I am now confident in conducting most audiological practices (except for balance assessment). I was able to build up clinical competences steadily and now that I look back, the process was actually a pleasant experience giving me the opportunity to see growth in clinical competence and confidence on a daily basis.

Before the CCC experience, I did my job routinely everyday and had very little time to reflect on what I was doing in a busy clinic. Through the CCC process, I obtained shared knowledge and skills from my supervisor (similar to a peer-review), and from comments of the examiner as well. Even though I was sometimes corrected, it gave me a valuable opportunity to re-think what I was doing. Facilitating a deeper understanding of those practices I provided on a daily basis. I feel that this finally improved my work practice to make sure I was working for the best interest of my patients. I also feel it is very positive to be able to have my clinical competence justified through a peer review process like CCC evaluation.

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Finally, I did go through the old examination format, in which two essays were required. I am not trying to say this format is better, but I did learn a lot from one of the topics, “tinnitus assessment and management”, giving me much more confidence in dealing with some tinnitus patients.

I feel that the process as a whole boosts up not only a person’s personal competence but also improves the whole profession as well. In short, it was an absolutely pleasant learning and growing procedure for me and has encouraged me to go on to complete my Aud D.