



Dietitians Board

Te Mana Mātanga Mātai Kai

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Dietitians Board regrets university's decision to disestablish MDiet programme

The Dietitians Board regrets the decision by the University of Otago to disestablish its long-running and respected Master Dietetic (MDiet) programme, but wishes to correct any impression that may have been created by the university that it took this step as a *'consequence of the recent decision by the NZ Dietitians Board to withdraw accreditation of the MDiet from 2022'*.

The background to the university's decision is this.

The Dietitians Board, which is the industry regulator, undertook an Accreditation Review of the university's MDiet programme in 2019. It also reviewed the programmes offered by the University of Auckland and Massey University.

This accreditation assesses the MDiet programmes against an agreed set of Accreditation Standards and Professional Standards and Competencies for Dietitians.

Unfortunately, Otago University's Department of Human Nutrition found it was unable to meet all the conditions that followed the Board's Accreditation Review. As a result, the university made the decision to suspend enrolments while it considered its options - endeavour to meet the required standards and criteria, or not.

The suspension of enrolments didn't affect existing students in any way.

The university has now made its own decision to disestablish its MDiet programme.

The Board is saddened by that decision, but we respect the right of Otago University to take the steps it feels are most appropriate.

The Board wishes the existing students well and our thoughts are with the University's staff, both those currently working within the programme and those who have been associated with the MDiet programme over its many years.

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