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From: Aidan Ho [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 December 2016 11:50 p.m.
To: Consultations
Subject: Submission: Annual practising certificate fee and disciplinary levy for: dentists and dental specialists

Dear Marie Warner,
Chief Executive, Dental Council.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit on the proposed APC fee increase for dentists.

Unsurprisingly, **I do object to such a large increase in fee** from 2015 to 2017. An increase of approximately 20% in a 2 year period is excessive.

I appreciate that the Council is doing good work, but from what I gather it seems that a large part of this fee increase is going to fund duplication in our Codes of Practice. These Codes have already been created by NZDA, refined and implemented. Duplicating it will just create confusion, and be wasteful in terms of finances and time. More than likely, it will create more hoops for dental practices to jump through, more record keeping, more compliance needs and equipment, and so more costs. Ultimately, these costs will have to be passed on to our patients, and in New Zealand, the majority of people already struggle to afford quality dental care.

Also, it has been brought to my attention that the APC fee for dentists is significantly higher than that of other healthcare professions. Can the Dental Council explain why this is so?

I ask that the Dental Council reconsider this increase in fees, and try to work more efficiently within the current fee structure, which is already set at a high level. Possibly savings can be made by working WITH the NZDA?

Finally, as a member of the NZDA, I do consider that organisation has my authority to speak for me in matters such as this, so when they make a submission, it is actually on behalf of myself and all the other member dentists, not just the voice of one person. I would appreciate that the Dental Council take that in to consideration for future submissions.

Regards,
Dr. Aidan Ho (BDS)