



New Zealand Dental Council
PO Box 10-448
Wellington 6143

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Consultation of the Budget 2017/2018

I am writing mke a submission in response to the request for consultation regarding the upcoming budget as proposed by the New Zealand Dental Council.

In particular, I am concerned to see the significant increase in the fees for dentists' annual practicing certificate (APC). This years increase in the APC brings the increase in two years to approximately 20.5%. The current New Zealand inflation rate is at 0.4% and it has not exceeded 2% since 2012. This brings the proposed rate of increase in fees to more than 51 times the current rate of inflation. This is an unacceptable increase.

I understand that there are several spending increases proposed in the budget for 2017-2018. In particular, the spend involved with producing the Practice Standards is considered by many, myself included, to be excessive, and is, in effect, duplication of work already done by the New Zealand Dental Association of existing standards.

In addition, the significant increase in administration work required by practice staff in labelling, tracking and recording sterilising batch numbers for instruments as decreed by the Dental Council is considered by many to be a pointless exercise. Recording all sterilising cycles are successful, and the knowledge that all instuments have been through said steriliser should be adequate documentation. The significant increase in staff time and subsequence expense has done little to please dentists who are bound by your decree. The additional increase in fees that you have proposed is in poor timing.

I look forward to hearing the outcome of the consultation, and hope that my colleagues will also voice their opinions.

Yours Faithfully,

Catherine Gill

Dentist

