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From: Liezel de Wet [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 16 December 2016 11:38 p.m.
To: Consultations
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: APC levy for dentists

Dear Sir/Madam

I strongly oppose the suggested rise in the APC levy.

Fistly, it is far above the inflation rate and does not compare with a rise in yearly income. This has been the case for a few years and not only now with the new proposal.

Secondly, in comparison to other health professionals, dentistry is charged far more for certification which is not justified. Once again, dentistry on average will also earn less than e.g. a GP, but demanded to pay a higher fee in order to practise.

Thirdly, no allowance is made for part time practitioners. This place a significant financial demand on practitioners just to cover the registration and legal costs for those who for various reasons may only work 2-3 days/week. There should be an option for part time practitioners to maintain registration in relation to the time spent per week in dentistry.

Further, the statement that Council needs to deal with an increase of complaints do not justify the rise. If one goes to court with a dispute, there is a basic fee that you need to pay to have your case heard. I feel such a system should be created in order to sieve the real complaints from those who just need to vent. It will also discourage rather than the current attitude of encouraging people to complain. Most complaints have to be dealt with within ones practice as a first instance, both legally but also for practice reputation and standard of care. This is a cost to the practice, not the Council. The Council might then also have better discretion to act on repetitive complaints, rather than being bombarded with multiple insignificant issues.

Yours sincerely
Liesel de Wet