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Dr R Whyman, Chair,  
Dental Council New Zealand.  
P O Box 10448  
Wellington, 6143.

Dear Robin.

Re DCNZ's Proposed Budget and APC Increase.

I write to represent the collective views of members of the New Zealand Association of Orthodontists. We had informal discussions on this matter in Wellington on 29 September, when Ms Marie Warner and Dr Lyndie Foster Page kindly attended an Executive meeting of our Association. While we appreciate the need to have a Strategic and Business Plan, our members are very concerned about the level of increase in the APC as well as the actual amount.

Staff costs and the production of Standards are all understandable. The New Zealand Association of Orthodontists is acutely aware of the cost of the Working Group set up by Dental Council - not our doing but a response to the need to address an increasing concern/issue.

It is admirable that the Dental Council has a strategic Plan and has been putting Standards in place in order to carry out it's functions under the Law/Acts.

The matter of funding Dental Council needs to be addressed. It is unfair ( and ultimately will be challenged ) that the cost of running the Dental Council relies entirely on increasing fees from Dentists and Allied Professionals. Their only recourse to pay these fees is to pass this on to their clients ( the general public ) or in the case of salaried Dentists, their Employer ( private or Health Boards ). It also discriminates against sole practitioners, and those who can only work part-time.

There is a limit to what can be considered a reasonable amount, and clearly our members feel this has been far exceeded. I would respectfully urge the Dental Council of New Zealand to review it's budget, and the funding source ( probably with the involvement of the Minister ).

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Alan R Isaac ( President New Zealand Association of Orthodontists )

