

[REDACTED]

From: Warren Bell [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 December 2016 9:01 a.m.
To: Consultations
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Dental Council

Dear Sirs/Madams

Please treat this email as confirmation of my opposition to the Dental Council's intention to raise the registration fee.

I absolutely do not accept that this group should be allowed to increase its income from Dentists without consultation or justification. Their blatant disregard for financial propriety is
Outrageous

Regards
Warren Bell

Warren Bell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I commenced this email earlier this year in response to the comments made by the retiring Chair of the Dental Council of New Zealand Dr Mike Bain in his message from the chair December 2015.

I've always had huge respect for Mike but I found myself disagreeing with some of the comments made in his message.

Firstly I would like to make some comments about the Dental Council in general

The Dental Council on its website consists of 10 members 6 of whom are not dentists and half of these non-dentists are lay people.

Two of New Zealand's largest companies Fletcher Challenge and Progressive Enterprises have Boards of Directors of 8 and 7 people respectively. All of these 15 people are experts in the field of governance. Can we say the same about the people on the board of the Dental Council of New Zealand. We need to ask why these successful New Zealand companies do not put laypeople or non-specialists on their boards

None of these 15 directors of Fletchers or Progressive Enterprises are lay people and it has always seemed wrong to me to that such an important body as the Dental Council is over represented with non-dentists given the role of the Dental Council to oversee the strategic direction of the organisation, monitor management performance and ensure Council meets the requirement of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003

Given the influence that the Dental Council has had on our daily lives with a profusion of rules and regulations thrust upon us causes me to I wonder if is it time that we tested the credentials of the non-dental people on the Dental Council. After all, we the Dental professionals need to comply with the Dental Council rules and partake in continuing professional development courses

It must be noted that the General Dental Council of the UK has 12 members with equal numbers of Dentists and Lay members to administer 66,000 Dental care professionals. Compare that with the New Zealand Dental Council which has 10 members 60% of who are lay people and 40% only are Dentists to administer 2500 Dental Care professionals. How on earth did we allow this insanity to occur and why do we blithely permit this situation to continue without protesting

I am in no way criticizing the ability of these members of the Dental Council but I am criticizing the creep of the PC Brigade into our regulatory body which over the 40 years that I have been involved in dentistry in New Zealand I believe has become increasingly arrogant and divorced from the membership with an overbearing attitude common to most government organizations who "know best" They, like Local bodies and City Councils, just set irresponsible budgets safe in the knowledge that the members will have to pay, unlike Dentists who have to set frugal and sensible budgets

To return to my comment about Dr Bain's Message from the chair which relates to the highlight of his term which he described as the formation as of the ISDR.

Reading the message from the chair by the retiring chairman of the Dental Council Dr Mike Bain prompted me to for the first time in 40 years write this letter

Can I now direct your attention towards this new regulatory body that we now belong to and in fact the former Chair of the Dental Council who was not even a Dentist

The vision of the ISDR operates “exclusively to support dental regulatory authorities worldwide in the achievement of their mandate of protecting promoting and maintaining the health and safety of the public by ensuring proper standards for the dental profession”

Can we assume despite comments to the country from the exiting chair of the council that we cannot do this without the involvement of an International Society. If this is the case maybe it's time we had a better standard and qualifications of the board members

On the website of the ISDR lists the following objectives

The first two are exactly the same thing supporting dental regulatory authorities advocate and promote high standards of dental education Something that are retiring chair was very complimentary of our ability to do this in New Zealand without any international assistance

The third objective is to facilitate international cooperation and collaboration establishing a network for the regular exchange of dental licensing, registration, regulatory and disciplinary information without any information as to why New Zealand needs this facility

The fourth is to provide a forum for the development and sharing of new concepts and new approaches in the regulation of dental practice and the 5th is to encourage and support research and policy analysis and development

I have categorised the organizations who are members of the ISDR as follows

Competent and Credible but no better than NZ

General Dental Council
Royal College of Dentists of Canada
Dental Board of Australia (Their Registration fees make our registration fees eye watering)

Of no real value to us

Dental Council of Ireland
Ordre des Dentists du Quebec (duplication of Royal College of Dentists of Canada)
Royal College of Dental surgeons of Ontario (duplication of Royal College of Dentists of Canada)
Ordre-chirurgiens-dentistes France
Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada
Government of Dubai, Dubai Health Authority mainly medicine

The vision and objectives of this organisation sound so much like any other quasi-government organisation trying to justify its existence. Nowhere in the retiring Chair's letter does he explain why we need to sit alongside these organizations..

Joining this organisation will obviously involve us in more expense for the Dental Practitioner without any real benefit as he believes that we are doing a excellent job already.

Belonging to this International Society will obviously mean that meetings, hosting meetings, travel, food all those sort of things which will inevitably become a burden on the dentists of New Zealand who do not need this Society but maybe the Council members do if they do not believe that they are competent to make policy

Stop the insanity, make the Council reduce its members to a sensible level, correct the imbalance of lay members who are not dentally qualified, concentrate on the stated Dental Council roles and functions and stop this tenancy to expand its role beyond what is expected and stop gouging unnecessary subscriptions from members to satisfy the their expansive urges.

Warren Bell

[REDACTED]