

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 10 October 2017 6:37 p.m.

To: Inquiries <Inquiries@dcnz.org.nz>

Subject: [REDACTED], here is a thought on our previous conversation regarding fee structure inquiries.

Good Day [REDACTED]

Please consider this my final input towards the consideration towards fee structure it is my explanation regarding my last letter to you. I do not see any reason this letter should be omitted with the previous one as it justifies briefly my concerns for the healthy and productive future of Dental Hygiene in New Zealand.

I think it best to follow through with this inquiry about fee structure from a perspective driven by positive rewards based on good behavior making incentive a preventive measure in how fee structure may be implemented to create concordance for timely APC fee payment to the NZDC.

The requirements for benefits of a prorated system may include in it a method to encourage participation only if the professional (in my case a hygienist) is in good standing, has always paid their fees ON TIME, have no disciplinary action executed, maintain current CPD and all relevant policy scope of practice in order.

Current policies apply to me presently which I am aware of.

- 1.) Regarding hygiene as a profession, our main specialty is in general prophylaxis including preventive, early to moderate to severe periodontics within the scope of general practice guidelines. We are skilled at recognizing, educating, proactively helping to behavior modify hygiene habits of patients, encourage home care with demonstrations specific to patients needs, and treat periodontal disease , maintain thereafter in general or in periodontal specialized practices. As hygienists, we assist to help prevent the agents (biofilm) a precursor to etiology of diabetes and heart disease including scientifically proven inflammatory diseases exacerbated by untreated active- refractory adult periodontal disease.

- 2.) Dental Therapists in my opinion, are gifted with a broader scope of practice focusing on preventive children's health as a specialty within the scope of dental hygiene as well as the general spectrum of Dental hygiene, including limited dentistry applications. Limiting their specialty with periodontal treatment due to appointment time spent with children and general patients. It is my opinion that many people would prefer to work with children with a broader spectrum of patients to decrease the musculoskeletal difficulties later for the clinician that is repetitive stress inherent to hygienists treating periodontal patients regularly. This condition develops after years of valuable experience has been attained in practice, which places great musculoskeletal strain on clinicians: carpal tunnel, back, neck, and shoulders maintaining the posture intensively for hours, days and years without injuring a patient or hurting them in any way. Periodontists are in a similar situation however, it appears a broader scope of practice eases the impact and stress on them, hygienists often provide maintenance visits.

- 3.) Considering patient comfort is always paramount to successful treatment. Many situations I can mention compromising the comfort of a hygienist working routinely in periodontics, however it is a necessary function of our scope of practice. WE strive to prevent disability adjusting our schedules, hoping our income is sufficient.
- 4.) It stands to reason to maintain a healthy dental Hygiene specialty, for the general population public health preventative initiative regarding what Dentistry can offer, dental hygiene is paramount in the practice of preventive health worthy of making incentives for candidates to want to become and remain actively practicing dental hygiene. APC yearly Fees are considerably higher in New Zealand, which opens the topic to possibilities.
- 5.) Pro rating fees may make it easier and more suitable for a single parent, newly graduated student, unexpected health reasons, preventing a disability, foreigner who is making way to the country, etc... for this purpose. Fees are a big concern to many professionals only able to find part time work and for those only able work part time.
- 6.) Perhaps prorating potential APC fees may allow flexibility within our profession to help prevent disability, rather than tap into an ACC system which does not fix the problem. ACC may assist to help manage for a short duration a situation of dysfunction.
- 7.) If a person pays to have their license on inactive inside of a year, during the same APC year, there in my opinion should be a grace period, to prorate the APC reactivation to insure less attrition of hygienists, encourage others into the profession. This may serve the council well.
- 8.) It is competitive world wide for hygienists. I am married to a wonderful New Zealander who brought me her to his home, I like my career helping others and want to be working productively. My education is the best, and my experience since 1992 has been in impeccable practices demanding only excellence, nothing less!
- 9.) [REDACTED]
- 10.) Too often patients opt to extract teeth rather than restore them, due to cost, lack of understanding basic principles of dental hygiene, access to care, incorrect – misunderstood information, poor oral hygiene habits, time.
- 11.) I believe it is Well worth keeping dental hygiene alive in practice. I feel our contribution is a valuable and necessary part of our communication towards correcting the oral manifestations of disease and a we are a contributing factor as a step towards public health disease prevention.
- 12.) Continuing to encourage New Zealand students to remain in practice with intentions to secure their futures in New Zealand for the future of dental Hygiene in New Zealand is an important step in professional identity and balance.

13.)I hope not to upset the apple cart as a hygienist in New Zealand. Although I know I'm making waves rocking the boat. I have heard rumored in the hygiene community that there is the possibility the profession of Dental Hygiene will be replaced by Hygiene Therapists exclusively. If this is planned please reconsider the idea and reevaluate the value of your dental hygienists in New Zealand. I present my suggestion, respect the councils decisions about fees. Answering to the numerous emails I have received in the past from the NZDC.

Thank you for your time, I greatly appreciate being able to contribute to our profession in New Zealand.

Kind Regards,

Stephanie Mortensen-Kirkcaldie

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10