



Marie Warner
Chief Executive
Dental Council of New Zealand
P O Box 10-448
Wellington
6143

4th December 2018

Dear Marie,

RE: Consultation on 2019/2020 draft budget, fees and levies

On behalf of the New Zealand Dental Hygienists' Association (NZDHA) Northland Branch members, I am writing a submission regarding the consultation on the 2019/2020 draft budget, fees and levies, particularly focusing on the proposed annual practicing certificate (APC) fee for dental hygienists.

I would ask that you look into the way our profession is governed by Dental Council of New Zealand (DCNZ) given that we are now a steadily decreasing group of clinicians with no single dental hygiene scope course being offered in NZ for over 10 years. The cost of the proposed APC for dental hygienists is grossly overpriced in relation to our scope of practice and the reasoning the DCNZ has given us for this cost makes it clear that new management guidelines must be adopted.

We are a committed, caring and highly professional set of clinicians who feel let down by the DCNZ. Many of us live rurally in Northland, provide much of our own equipment in order to practice but continue to maintain high standards. By raising the APC so drastically (33% this year) the DCNZ is indirectly inhibiting our ability to continue unless these are passed onto our dental practice and subsequently our patients.

I trust that you will treat this submission with the respect and thought that it was sent with.

Regards,

Lorna Byrne RDH
Management Member
NZDHA Northland Branch