

From: Chantelle
Sent: Monday, 9 September 2024 11:22 am
To: Consultations
Subject: 2025/2026 Budget and fees - reduced post-graduate fees

To whom it may concern,

RE: Proposing reduced fees for specialty trainees/post-graduate students

I am currently undertaking postgraduate medical school training in the pursuit of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery specialisation in the future. As well as other postgraduate trainees who are specialising in Dunedin, this involves full-time study and is unpaid. The 2024 course fees for domestic postgraduate students were \$17,389.00 per year and \$37,784.00 for Medicine and postgraduate specialties (e.g. Orthodontics), respectively.

I believe it would be in the interest of the Dental Council to support the future specialists of New Zealand through reduced APC and disciplinary fees when undertaking full time postgraduate study. Below are some further points for your consideration:

- Most students are unable to work alongside study in a full time or part-time capacity, yet are paying full fees for APC and disciplinary levies. This is a significant portion of any income we receive and one may argue there is a lower risk of causing disciplinary events with lower volume of practice.
- Postgraduate trainees are taking a very significant pay-cut to further their education, many from full time private practice prior to study while still paying for accomodation (e.g. mortgage), travel and bills without the previous income.
- To maintain APCs we are still required to attend conferences, uphold first aid and maintain clinical competence in practice. For those of us working as *casual* employees in the hospital/dental school, these fees are not usually covered. Those working as contractors may end up with a net loss to maintain these requirements at year end. Any subsidy on the expenses during our time as students would be welcomed and appreciated.

Your consideration of these points is much appreciated. Further discussion individually or as a group of postgraduate students would be welcome for more clarity of our situation.

Yours sincerely,
Chantelle Petterson
BDS