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Via email

17 October 2024

Tēnā koe Marie,

RE: Te Ohu Pūniho Ora o Aotearoa NZ Oral Health Association response to Dental Council's Budget & Fee/Levy Consultation 2025/26 consultation

Te Ohu Pūniho Ora o Aotearoa the New Zealand Oral Health Association (NZOHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit feedback on the Dental Council's proposed Annual Practising Certificate (APC) fees and disciplinary levies for the 2025/26 practising year.

We acknowledge the Council's efforts to maintain a balanced and fiscally responsible approach, particularly in these challenging economic times. We also appreciate the commitment to improving health equity and cultural safety, which aligns with our values and the needs of our members.

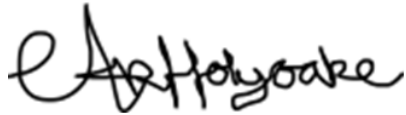
However, NZOHA would like to highlight the importance of the upcoming Health Practitioners Competence Assurance (HPCA) Act 2004 review. We believe this is a crucial opportunity for the government to reevaluate and potentially restructure the regulatory frameworks that govern oral health practitioners, specifically the alignment of oral health therapy, dental therapy, and dental hygiene. The current distinctions in regulation our these professions and dentists/dental specialists can create disparities and inequities in service delivery, particularly for the public sector.

We urge the Dental Council to actively support this review and advocate for changes that will bring about a more equitable regulatory environment for our three oral health professions. Such changes are essential not just for the sustainability of our professions but also for ensuring that all New Zealanders have access to high-quality oral health care.

As the representative body for oral health therapists, dental therapists, and dental hygienists, NZOHA is committed to working collaboratively with the Council and other stakeholders to ensure that any legislative changes benefit our members and the communities they serve. We look forward to the government's review of the HPCA Act 2004 and are hopeful for meaningful reforms that reflect the evolving needs of the health sector.

Thank you for considering our views. We are eager to continue our participation in this dialogue to enhance the regulation of oral health professionals in New Zealand.

Ngā mihi



Anna Holyoake
President – Tūmuaki
On behalf of the NZOHA Executive