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THE GOVERNMENT DOCTORS' ASSOCIATION
Dental Committee
 C/O 1/F, Tang Shiu Kin School Dental Clinic
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6 December 2005

Chairman
 Bills Committee on Dentist Registration (Amendment) Bill 2005
 Legislative Council Building
 8 Jackson Road
 Central
 Hong Kong [Fax No: 2509 9055]

Dear Sir,

Re: Submission from the Government Doctors' Association Dental Committee on the Dentist Registration (Amendment) Bill 2005

The Government Doctors' Association represents Government Doctors and Dentists working in the Department of Health of the HKSAR Government or the Hospital Authority. The main objectives of the Association are to improve the quality and extent of medical and health services to the community and to promote the welfare of Government Doctors. The Government Doctors' Association Dental Committee (GDADC) was formed in 1983 to monitor issues related to the dental services.

As a professional organization, we stand for the betterment of health care in Hong Kong.

In connection with the **Dentist Registration (Amendment) Bill 2005**, the GDADC would like to submit our opinions as follows:

1. In the Government Dental Service, approval to use Specialist Titles has been granted by the Hong Kong Dental Council (HKDC) to specialist dentists working in the field of Orthodontics, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Endodontics, Paediatric Dentistry and Prosthodontics. All specialist dentists are holders of a Fellowship in Dental Surgery of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine.
2. With the enactment of the Dentist Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2005, the GDADC anticipates that the Specialist Dental Services provided by the Government Dental Service of the Department of Health has to be further strengthened, especially in the fields of Periodontology and Family Dentistry, in which there is no specialist at present.
3. Training opportunities must then be made available to train enough dentists to meet the demand for specialist treatments.

Dental Committee 2005-06

Chairman: Dr Chan Sai-king, Vice-Chairman: Dr To Ngan-fat Tony, Hon. Secretary: Dr Poon Pui-lok Johnny, Hon. Treasurer: Dr Chang Kit, Membership Secretary: Dr Cheung Nga-yi Rhonda, Welfare Secretaries: Dr Lam Yu-hang Suez, Dr Chung Yuk Kuen April, Members: Dr Ho Wai-mei May, Dr Yuen Kwok-wah Keith.

4. Medico-legal responsibilities of the Specialists, Trainees and general dentists carrying out specialist treatment must be clearly defined.
5. The continuing education of dental specialists will become a legal requisite and ample training opportunities must be available to dentists to fulfil the set requirement.
6. The setting up of a statutory Education and Accreditation Committee (EAC) is for handling matters relating to specialist registration. While the composition is clearly defined, whether the members should be Specialists themselves is not mentioned. A majority of Specialists in the Committee dealing with Specialist affairs would be both reasonable and necessary.
7. The functioning of the Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) and the EAC must be clearly separated and defined. The potential disciplinary function of the EAC appears to entangle with that of the PIC.
8. The transitional arrangement provided for all those already approved by the HKDC to use Specialist title is understanding and rational.

Our organization agrees with the need to establish a Specialist Register for the public to be kept informed unmistakably the level of services they are receiving and to safe-guard the general health of our community. Corresponding adjustments are also required in the delivery of the dental service in different sectors, the Government Dental Service being one, to satisfy the new legal requirements.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Sai-kwing Chan
Chairman

Dental Committee 2005-06

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