



2 May 2007

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Dr. Hon. York Y N Chow, SBS, JP
Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
The Government of the Hong Kong SAR
19/F, Murray Building
Garden Road, Hong Kong

Dear Dr. Chow,

Re: Consultation in Financing the Medical and Health Services in Hong Kong

Aging population, increasing demand in medical services and proper allocation of financial resources are some of the biggest issues challenging Hong Kong to maintain the World City status and to provide its citizens with a sense of well being.

The primary duty of medical services providers is to heal. However, more importantly, they should also provide an environment for improving the quality of life of its citizens.

Dentistry is one branch of medical services that both heals and improves the quality of life. Many recent advancements in dentistry not only alleviate pain and suffering and sometimes even death, it also helps its patients to eat better, speak better and look better. Dental services can improve patients' self-images, make them healthier and enjoy life more.

Quality of life of senior citizens should be addressed with emphasis on oral health and improving mastication. Children's oral health should be attended to beyond primary school. Low-income groups should be provided with affordable but up to standard dental services. Preventive dentistry has been proven to be highly successful in averting major debilitating and costly diseases. The oral care of ordinary citizens should also be integrated into the comprehensive health care reform that you are about to formulate.

Our services are important as well as essential in your medical services scheme. As health care is a major public expenditure item, you, the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food will soon be consulting the public on reform of health care service delivery and related financing arrangements this year.

You will also study the proposal to reduce financial burden on health expenses, and other related matter on improving the health care delivery system. We believe that dental issues must be included into your proposal on "Financing the Medical Services in Hong Kong" because a better quality of life will project Hong Kong as a humane, civilized and world-class society.



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We, therefore, propose that you appoint at least one dentist into your Committee on Health Care Services Reform, and at least one dentist into your Committee on Health Care Financing Consultation. We also wish to participate in the Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau.

In fact, it will benefit the oral health of Hong Kong citizens greatly if an independent Advisory Committee on oral health can be formed under your jurisdiction to advance the oral health of Hong Kong people.

We understand that mutual co-operation and understanding between the government and the private sectors will benefit the people of Hong Kong and improve the governers of our administration. As dentistry is a major entity of people's health, the Hong Kong Dental Association feels that our representation and input can be of service to you in your quest to improve the health of the people of Hong Kong, and will still be within your budget.

We appreciate your kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Vincent F S Leung
President (2005-2007)
Hong Kong Dental Association

cc: Dr. P.Y. Lam, JP, Director of Health, Department of Health
Mr. Leung Chun Ying, GBS, JP, Chairman, HK Coalition of Professional Services
Dr. Joseph Chan, JP, Consultant i/c Dental Service, Department of Health
Dr. Hon. Kwok Ka Ki, Legislative Councillor
Members of the Executive Council
Members of the Legislative Council