

10 *Future Developments*

10.1 The Dental Council is dedicated to leading the dental profession in its role for greater professionalism so as to be in line with the community's changing needs and rising public awareness and demand. The Council must also keep abreast of the community's aspirations as well as the latest development in medical knowledge and technology in order to remain strong to meet new challenges.

10.2 To provide a comprehensive regulatory framework for the dental profession, revision is being made to the registration-related provisions in the Dental Registration Ordinance with a view to streamlining and improving the system of registration of dentists. The suggested amendments to the Ordinance will be forwarded to the Administration when finalized.

10.3 On the discipline side, the Council has been constantly looking into the scope for improving procedures and processes to enhance efficiency and transparency. Save for very special circumstances, the Council's disciplinary inquiries are normally held in public. This will remain the practice of the Dental Council. Information about the date of an upcoming inquiry of the Council is also posted at the website of the Council for information of members of the public and interested parties. In order to assist members of the public to provide detailed information

and describe relevant incidents and their allegations against the dentist concerned systematically, a form for making complaint, as well as an information leaflet about how to make a complaint, has been prepared and made available for complainants to use or make reference to.

10.4 The Council believes that in an ever-changing knowledge-based environment, dental practitioners do have a responsibility to keep themselves up-to-date on current development in knowledge and skills in various fields of professional practice in order to maintain quality professional service. The Council has been running a voluntary continuing education programme open for participation by all practising dentists to encourage them to maintain and further raise their professional competence. The programme, introduced in July 2002, will initially last for three years and is closely monitored by the Council.

10.5 The Council's Secretariat will also continue to review and improve both manual and computerised procedures in order to further enhance efficiency in the provision of services. In particular, arrangement has been made for information at the website of the Council to be updated bimonthly so as to provide more up-to-date information on the various issues pertaining to the practice of dentistry in Hong Kong.