

6 Registration and Restoration

6.1 As at 31 December 2004, 1,892 dentists were entered in the Register of Dentists of Hong Kong, either as being resident in Hong Kong or resident outside Hong Kong. **Table 7 (A)** shows that there has been a slight increase in the number of registered dentists from 1,848 in 2003 to 1,892 in 2004, because of new registration and restoration to the register.

6.2 Keeping these entries up-to-date while enabling public access to those names registered on the list is one of the major tasks for the Council Secretariat. Hundreds of transactions are carried out monthly, including change of address or personal particulars, deletion and restoration to the register, transfer to and from the local and overseas lists respectively, as well as issuance of Certificate of Good Standing, Duplicate Copy of Certificate of Registration, Certified Copy of Certificate of Registration (which is required when a dentist

opens a new premises for the practice of dentistry) and Certificates verifying registration, etc. In addition, as a public service, the Council Secretariat processed an annual average of over 10,000 general enquiries from members of the profession and the public.

6.3 **Table 7(B)** lists in details the registration figures as well as cases of restoration to the Register in 2002, 2003 and 2004 respectively.

6.4 In addition to the registered dentists with full registration, there were 7 deemed to be registered dentists in 2004. The deemed to be registered clause was introduced into the Dentists Registration Ordinance to enable all persons on full-time teaching employment of the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Hong Kong to discharge their teaching duties or perform hospital work in the Faculty of Dentistry of the University.

6.5 A dentist who has advanced qualifications, training and experience in a branch of dentistry may apply to the Dental Council for the use of a Specialist Title. The objective of granting a Specialist Title is for the recognition of expertise so that patients may be referred to them for opinion and/or consultation if the need arises.



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6.6 As at 31 December 2004, the Council had granted approval for the use of the Specialist Titles in the following specialties: Orthodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Periodontology, Endodontics, Paediatric Dentistry, Prosthodontics and Family Dentistry.

6.7 Another major task for the Council Secretariat is the annual exercise of renewal of practising certificates for all registered dentists whose names are on the register for dentists resident in Hong Kong. The number of registered dentists resident in Hong Kong in 2004 was roughly the same as the number of registered dentists resident in Hong Kong in 2002. A total of 1,727 annual practising certificates for dentists resident in Hong Kong were issued in 2004, as compared with 1,723 annual practising certificates issued in 2002.

6.8 Every registered dentist whose name is on the register for dentists resident in Hong Kong is reminded at the end of the year that his practising certificate is due for renewal. Relevant provisions in section 11A and section 15(3) of the Dentists Registration Ordinance have been included in the application form for renewal of practising certificate to remind

dentists about the consequences of not renewing the practising certificate on time. A dentist should apply for a new practising certificate on time otherwise his name is liable to be removed from the register.

6.9 The Dental Council has reviewed the need of maintaining a "Dentists Resident Outside Hong Kong" list in the register. In the past, if a registered dentist on the "Dentists Resident In Hong Kong" list of the register decided to reside outside Hong Kong, he could apply to transfer his name to the "Dentists Resident Outside Hong Kong" list. The Council considered that while dentists could always leave Hong Kong for a period as they wish, their names should be removed from the register in accordance with section 15(3)(b) of the Dentists Registration Ordinance if they have no intent to practise in Hong Kong. There is already provision in the Ordinance for such a dentist to apply to restore his name to the register if he intends to practise dentistry in Hong Kong again. Dentists are therefore reminded that with effect from 1 March 2003, dentists would not be allowed to transfer to the "Dentists Resident Outside Hong Kong" list anymore.