

The Dental Council of Hong Kong (“the Council”) warmly welcomes and fully supports the policy directions set out in Hong Kong’s First Five-Year Plan and The Chief Executive’s 2026 Policy Address, which aim to strengthen primary oral healthcare services and expand support for underprivileged groups.

The Dentists Registration (Amendment) Bill 2024 (“the Bill”) was passed by the Legislative Council on 10 July 2024 and came into force on 1 January 2025. Implementation of the relevant amendments has since progressed smoothly.

The Council remains firmly committed to upholding the high standards of the local dental profession. The Government’s policy priorities accurately address the oral health needs of the community in primary healthcare and of specified high-risk groups. They also align with the recommendations of the Working Group on Oral Health and Dental Care, particularly in targeting prevention, early identification, and timely intervention. The Council welcomes and fully endorses these measures.

With regard to the provision of preventive primary oral healthcare services at District Health Centres (“DHCs”), the Council strongly supports the Government’s initiative to extend services, beginning next year, to specified high-risk groups—such as individuals with pre-diabetes and diabetes—at designated DHCs and DHC Expresses. As chronic diseases are closely linked to oral health, this measure will effectively put into practice the principle of prevention-oriented primary healthcare and enhance holistic health management for high-risk individuals.

The Council further expresses its strong endorsement and appreciation for the expansion of the Healthy Teeth Collaboration. Through outreach services, this scheme provides preventive oral healthcare to residents of designated residential care homes for persons with disabilities. This initiative fully embodies the spirit of social care, ensuring that the oral health of those in need is properly safeguarded.

The implementation of the first Five-Year Plan marks a significant milestone in the history of healthcare in Hong Kong. As a statutory body, the Council will continue to discharge its statutory functions, maintain close liaison with the Health Bureau, the Hospital Authority, the Department of Health, the Primary Healthcare Commission, and dental professional bodies, and rigorously monitor the quality of professional services to ensure that members of the public have access to safe, high-quality, and professional dental care.

**The Dental Council of Hong Kong
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