

# 10

## Future Developments

- 10.1** The Dental Council is committed to leading the dental profession in its role for greater professionalism. In meeting the community's changing needs and rising public awareness and demands, the Council must stay up-to-date of the community's aspiration as well as the latest development in technology and dental services.
- 10.2** The Council notes that amendment of the Dentists Registration Ordinance is in hand to establish a statute-based Specialist Register for registered dentists qualified in various specialist fields of dentistry, and an Education and Accreditation Committee to deal with matters relating to specialist registration and related matter. It is expected that the new statutory provisions will come into force later in 2006.
- 10.3** On other registration and related services, the Council has reviewed the relevant provisions in the Ordinance and invited the Administration to consider other proposed amendments with a view to streamlining and improving the registration and regulatory systems of the profession.
- 10.4** With regard the discipline side, the Council has regularly looked into the scope for improving procedures and processes to further enhance efficiency and transparency. In order to assist members of the public to provide detailed information and describe relevant incidents and their allegations against the subject dentist systematically, a form for making complaint, as well as an information leaflet on how to make a complaint has been prepared and made available for complainants to use or make reference to. The leaflet and complaint form have also been uploaded on the Council's website for public's access. Further, save for very exceptional circumstances, the Council's disciplinary inquiries are normally held in public. This will remain the practice of the Council. Information on the date and venue of an upcoming disciplinary inquiry is also posted on the Council's website for information of members of the public and interested parties.



**10.5** The Council believes that in an ever-evolving knowledge-based environment, dental practitioners have the responsibility to keep themselves updated on current development in knowledge and skills in the various fields of professional practice in order to maintain quality professional service. To encourage practising dentists to maintain and further raise their professional competence, the Council has been running a voluntary continuing education programme open for their participation. The 3-year cycle programme was introduced in July 2002 and was completed in June 2005. The response to the programme has been very encouraging with 966 dentists enrolled in the programme and participated in the various activities offered. The new cycle of the programme has commenced in July 2005 and run until December 2007. The Council will keep the programme under close monitoring.

**10.6** The Council's Secretariat will continue reviewing and improving both the manual and computerized procedures in order to further enhance efficiency in the provision of services to members of the profession as well as the public. In particular, arrangement has been made for information on the Council's website to be updated bi-monthly so as to provide more up-to-date information on the various issues pertaining to the practice of dentistry in Hong Kong.

