

Title: NZIDT Canterbury Branch Meeting

MINUTES

DATE
17th April 2008

LOCATION:
Oral Health Centre, 16 Tuam St, Christchurch

TYPE OF MEETING Annual General Meeting

FACILITATOR Steven Hellberg

MINUTE TAKER Anne Collis

APOLOGIES Howard Pannell (Nelson), Leila Brewerton (Timaru)

ATTENDEES Jo Irvine, Pierce Prendergast, Peter Durham, Mike Smith, Rob Courtier, John Batchelor, Martin Brown, Amanda Pearson, Anita Studetzky, Steve Brown, John Allen, Tony Woodham, Richard Clyne, Brian Perry, Richard Greenlees, Andrew Johnson

Welcome:

- Steve welcomed everyone to the first annual general meeting of the Canterbury NZIDT branch for 2008.
- After providing an overview of each of the committee positions available for re-election nominations where called from the floor. No nominations were forthcoming. Steve reiterated the fact that he would like to step down from his role as Chairperson and it was time that other members of the organisation took the opportunity to become actively involved.
- Election of officers were then as follows:

Chair – Steven Hellberg (re-elected), **Deputy Chair** – Mike Smith, **Secretary** – Jo Irvine, **Treasurer** – Peter Durham

- NZIDT Conference date is being held from the 10-11th of October at the Rydges Hotel in Christchurch with Friday 10th possibly being allocated for company demonstrations, short courses and the AGM. On the Saturday there will be two streams, one for crown and bridge technicians and the alternate for clinical and general pros technicians. The information on website will be updated on a regular basis.
- An invitation was called for local speakers or suggestions for presentations for the branch. John Allen offered to present and the team from the Oral Health Centre also put themselves forward.
- Steve provided an overview of issues the NZIDT executive has taken on behalf of its members to the Dental Technicians Board and the Dental Council as far back as 2005. These issues have included:
 1. The lack of consultation from the Board and Council when making decisions affecting our members.
 2. The interpretation of the HPCA act.
 3. The lack of evidence supporting Board and Dental Council decisions.
 4. The restrictions to practice being placed on our members.
 5. Registration and entitlements to provide dental technology services.
 6. The registration of auxiliary dental technology workers.
 7. Scopes of practice for implant over dentures for clinical dental technicians.
 8. Continual Professional Development Requirements.
 9. Compliance requirements, codes of practice and so on.
 10. Restrictions on dental technicians for the removal of temporary crowns and shade taking.
 11. Dental technicians repairing dentures.
 12. Using legal means to try and get movement on issues.
 13. More recently issues regarding fees and controls on the quality of imported dental appliances.
- The NZIDT executive has made a written submission on the review of the HPCA act and has attended workshops. NZIDT will make every effort to advance changes that provide an improvement in the fair treatment of all our members.
- The NZIDT still has outstanding issues with the Dental Council and continues to try and make progress. NZIDT has established professional credibility and the Dental Technicians Board is keen to sign an MOU. This requires more work from the executive as it may be another useful tool in the fight for the rights of our members.
- The NZIDT has written to the MOH regarding the ongoing issues and the attitude coming from the

Dental Council. NZIDT has stated that the current regulatory authority has not justified its actions. Those members who wished to protest the latest APC fee increase by offering payment of the old fee until the new fee has been justified have the full support of the NZIDT.

- Steve provided an overview of services the NZIDT is providing:
 - Through the efforts of the executive, members are able to attend a conference each year where two streams provide the option for presenters covering dental technician focused presentations and clinical dental technician presentations.
 - The executive have created an easy means for members to gain the CPD hours required by all health groups who are registered. Members can apply for CPD for time they spend with colleagues either in their work place or local area doing planned activities such as learning new techniques, practical workshops, presentations from guest speakers and so on. As a result members don't need to spend large amounts of money to meet their registration requirements.
 - NZIDT offer mediation when requested and in the case of disputes between clients.
 - NZIDT have offered a support person for anyone wishing support in cases such as audits, disciplinary actions.
 - Local branch money - \$200 dollars currently sits in the Canterbury Branches account as 'seeding money' from the organization.
 - Continuing Professional Development (CPD) online data base the NZIDT is soon to house on their website – www.nzidt.org.nz . This site would contain a list of the approved courses available throughout New Zealand for people to attend. Only members of the NZIDT will have access to this data base.

- A lengthy discussion then ensued with regard to the restriction of practice imposed upon registered clinical and dental technicians under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance (HPCA) Act, the unfettered control of unregistered, unqualified practitioners, the recent substantial increase in the Annual Practising Certificate (APC) fee and the concern at what appeared to be inaction of the NZIDT Executive committee to address these and other issues in a timely manner.
 - In Summary the following points were highlighted:
 - The position the Ministry of Health (MoH) holds is that the intent of the Act was not to be restrictive and overly detailed rather more informative for the public. However the interpretation of the Act by the Dental Council New Zealand (DCNZ) has subsequently produced the Codes of Conduct and Codes of Practice for Clinical and Dental technicians which are restrictive are overly complex in some areas and lacking in others. As a result they are unclear and don't allow development.
 - The MoH is only responsible for those who are **not** registered but who act as if they are. Any unregistered practitioners calling themselves or "holding out as" dental technicians are liable for prosecution by the MoH
 - A letter has been sent, by the NZIDT on behalf its members to the MoH and the DCNZ calling for action to resolve the ongoing issues of poor consultation and lack of transparency in the regulatory actions undertaken by the DCNZ and the Dental Technicians Board (DTB) against the profession. The letter also protests against the recent APC fee increase of over 30% for dental technicians and is available for viewing on the NZIDT website. A direct response to this communication is still awaited from the MoH and DCNZ
 - The HPCA Act is currently under review and several members of the NZIDT Executive have been participating in this process. In November 2007 all NZIDT members were asked to provide comments on the HPCA consultation document either to their local branch or individually. Nominal responses were received by the Canterbury Branch of the NZIDT. The review of the Act provides an important opportunity for the profession to comment on the process to date and may give impetus to resolution of the ongoing problems identified. It was noted that many other health professional groups shared the same concerns and frustrations with their respective regulating bodies and the varying interpretation of the HPCA act.
 - There was a strong call from the members for increased communication from the NZIDT Executive committee.

New Business		Action
1.	Presentation - John Allen	Steve to liaise on venue, date and time
2.	Presentation - Oral Health Centre 'Team'	Committee to liaise on venue, date and time
3.	An evening will be held to demonstrate the process for applying for a CPD course,	Steve Hellberg
	Close: 7:55pm	