

July 2008

Greetings All

NZIDT continues to grow in strength. We currently have 240+ members with an approximate 50% mix of dental technicians and clinical dental technicians. The executive continues to work hard, both in obvious ways and behind the scenes to support the interests of all our members. The following is a brief outline of current events and issues that may be of interest.

- 2008 NZIDT Conference and AGM. The executive have organised this annual event for 10th & 11th October in Christchurch and will include supply company displays and a two-day seminar programme with 10 CPD points allocated. The executive is aware of many important issues and sees this event as pivotal to achieving a cohesive and successful direction for our members. This is a meeting that shouldn't be missed. Details are available on our web site [www.nzidt.org.nz](http://www.nzidt.org.nz)

- NZIDT Database. NZIDT has now achieved a comprehensive database that allows individual and secure communication via email to all members with an email address. This enables a range of communication possibilities, including forming interest groups and online voting. The database will only be available for financial members. The scope of the database will be discussed in Christchurch.

- The Dental Council and Technicians Board. The executive continues to work to achieve better responses from the regulatory authority. There are too many issues to explain in this note. What can be said is the NZIDT executive remain in dispute with both the Dental Council and the Dental Technicians Board on many issues. It is clear that we are not alone. Members from the executive are meeting with representative's from the Ministry of Health on Friday 1st August as a result of our letter to the Minister of Health (letter is posted on the NZIDT web page). The executive is frustrated by the protracted nature of disputes with the Dental Council; however, we are determined to pursue all matters until there is a satisfactory outcome for our members. The following is a list of related activities the executive has been involved in:

- Written submission on review of the HPCA Act.
- Attending workshops for all registered health professionals to review the HPCA Act in Christchurch and Wellington.
- Letters to the Dental Council
- Meeting with the Chief Executive and Secretary of the Dental Council
- Letter to the Minister of Health
- Meeting with the Chair of the Dental Technicians Board
- Support for members protest against registration fee increase

- The executive has started a process of strategic planning for our future with a second workshop scheduled for late July. A review of the organisation structure and setting goals for the future that come from this workshop will be presented in Christchurch. There is enormous potential for NZIDT to grow and offer increasing value and benefits for all our members. It is the executives aim to lead us in a positive direction for the future.

- The NZIDT-organised Vincent Bennani one-day seminar is close to being finalised. Members who have applied will receive confirmation details over the coming few days. A limited number of places are still available. This is a seminar that shouldn't be missed. Members involved in denture work who haven't sought a place should look at the programme details and not miss out.

There is much more that could be said, but this is meant to be brief. So hopefully you can make it to Christchurch in October and we can keep everyone informed.

Craig Metcalfe (NZIDT President)