

- 1.1 The Medical Council is empowered under the Medical Registration Ordinance, Cap. 161, Laws of Hong Kong, to handle registration and disciplinary regulation of medical practitioners in Hong Kong. To assist in carrying out these functions, the Council Secretariat, which is staffed by the Department of Health, provides executive and secretarial support to the Council. Apart from conducting policy and committee meetings, the Council had to process, with the support of the Secretariat, for the year 2001:-
- (a) 124 applications to sit for the qualifying examination of medical practitioners;
  - (b) 1,270 applications for registration (including 404 applications for full registration, 234 applications for limited registration and 196 applications for specialist registration);
  - (c) 10,000 renewals of annual practising/retention certificates;
  - (d) 236 disciplinary complaints; and
  - (e) 44,000 general enquiries from members of the profession and the public.
- 1.2 2001 was an extremely busy year for the Medical Council. In order to restore public confidence and satisfy public expectation for more transparency, accountability and fairness, the Council appointed a 17-member Working Group on the Reform of the Medical Council, which was chaired by Professor Felice LIEH-MAK, CBE, JP, to make proposals to reform the Council. Based on the recommendations of the Working Group, the Council had decided on the blueprint for the reform. On improving the quality of medical practitioners, the Council had sought views from members of the profession on the detailed proposal of the establishment of the Professional Performance Committee to deal with complaints relating to the substandard performance of doctors, and launched a voluntary Continuing Medical Education (CME) Programme for general practitioners to maintain a high professional standard. In addition, a new promulgation on limited registration, i.e. Promulgation No. 4, was gazetted by the Council in November 2001 under section 14A of the Medical Registration Ordinance to allow medical practitioners who are registered with limited registration under Promulgation No. 3 to register with the Council under the new promulgation for employment in clinics registered under the Medical Clinics Ordinance, Cap. 343, Laws of Hong Kong.

