

Introduction

- 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 processed, with the support of the Secretariat, for the year 2003:-
- (a) 87 applications to sit for the qualifying examination of medical practitioners;
 - (b) 1,292 applications for registration (including 427 applications for full registration, 196 applications for limited registration, 318 applications for provisional registration, 76 applications for temporary registration and 275 applications for specialist registration);
 - (c) 10,580 renewals of annual practising/retention certificates;
 - (d) 350 disciplinary complaints; and
 - (e) 46,100 general enquiries from members of the profession and the public.
- 1.2 2003 was a very busy year for the Medical Council. This is evident from the statistics contained in this report showing, particularly, a significant increase in the number of complaints. Besides, to sustain the momentum of reform, the Council continued its discussion on the means to ensure compliance with mandatory continuing medical education (CME) by registered medical practitioners. After careful and thorough deliberation, the Council has finalized its proposals on the implementation plan and operational details for mandatory CME, and forwarded them to the Government for consideration. To ensure professional ethics and facilitate experience sharing, guidelines on medical practice/management were issued for the reference of medical practitioners vide the Council's Newsletters.