

- 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 2004:-
 - (a) 93 applications to sit for the qualifying examination of medical practitioners;
 - (b) 966 applications for registration (including 351 applications for full registration, 196 applications for limited registration, 326 applications for provisional registration, 93 applications for temporary registration)
 - (c) 233 applications for specialist registration;
 - (d) 10,900 renewals of annual practising/retention certificates;
 - (e) 311 disciplinary complaints; and
 - (f) 46,300 general enquiries from members of the profession and the public.
- 1.2 2004 was a very busy year for the Council. This is evident from the statistics in this report, in particular, the large number of disciplinary complaints and applications for registration and renewal of annual practising/retention certificates. To ensure compliance with professional ethics and facilitate experience sharing, guidelines on specific topics relating to medical practice/management were issued for the reference of medical practitioners through the Council's Newsletters.