

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Medical Council of Hong Kong (the 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 2010:-
 - (a) 305 applications to take various parts of the Licensing Examination, the passing of which shows the achievement of a standard acceptable for registration as a medical practitioner;
 - (b) 827 applications for registration (including 280 applications for full registration, 174 applications for limited registration, 272 applications for provisional registration, and 101 applications for temporary registration);
 - (c) 291 applications for specialist registration;
 - (d) 12,338 renewals of annual practising/retention certificates;
 - (e) 476 disciplinary complaints; and
 - (f) 48,000 general enquiries from members of the profession and the public.
- 1.2 2010 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. 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 newsletter.
- 1.3 In 2010, the Council continued to defend itself in a number of judicial review/appeal cases. Although being challenged in such cases, the Council is committed to protecting the public, maintaining professionalism and ensuring justice in discharging its statutory functions.