Australian government plans to terminate child dental care scheme

By DTI

CANBERRA, Australia: The Australian government has recently announced its intention to end the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) from 1 July 2016 as part of the upcoming federal budget. The Australian Dental Association (ADA) has warned that over 3–4 million children in the country who would otherwise not have access to dental care now stand to lose A$1,000 worth of dental care every two years.

“The Australian Government’s plan to end the scheme effectively will remove a key programme which has been helping low-income families’ children get much needed dental care,” ADA President Dr Rick Olive, AM, commented. “The Australian Government is removing its commitment to the early investment in children’s oral health. This will lead to lifelong dental issues, which will impact on their general health, welfare and livelihood,” he added.

Through the scheme, which commenced on 1 January 2014, dentists across Australia delivered over 9.7 million dental services, including examinations, radiographs, dental cleaning, fissure sealing, fillings, root canals and extractions, to eligible Australian children in its first two years of operation. “97 per cent of these services have been at no cost to the patient,” Olive said.

The ADA stated that, according to the proposed plan, the CDBS will be replaced with the Child and Adult Public Dental Scheme, which supposedly substitutes a budget allocation of A$615 million per year to treat three million children with one of A$425 million per year to assist five million adults and children. The association further said that if the government were serious in its wishes to deliver dental care to a wider section of the population it must not only retain the CDBS, but also develop additional similar schemes that will focus on needy sectors of the community, as identified in the National Oral Health Plan signed off on by all Australian government health ministers.

The ADA has now called upon its members and the public to sign an online petition at http://bit.do/savetheCDBS against the plans to end the scheme. To date, it has gained over 18,261 signatures.
University of Hong Kong tops list of world’s best dental faculties

By DTI

HONG KONG: The Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Hong Kong has been ranked as the best dental school in the world by the latest QS World Universities Rankings by Subject 2016. The faculty has thus relegated the University of Michigan in the US to second place and surpassed last year’s winner, Karolinska Institute in Stockholm in Sweden, which came third in this year’s list.

The Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Hong Kong was established in 1986 when most of the dentists practising in Hong Kong were still trained overseas. Today, about two in three dentists practising in Hong Kong have been educated at the faculty. The school has become the sole educational centre for dentists in the region, offering undergraduate, graduate, research postgraduate, and taught postgraduate programmes in dental specialties, such as dental public health, paediatric dentistry, periodontology, endodontics, orthodontics, prosthodontics, as well as oral and maxillofacial surgery.

Training courses in dental hygiene are also provided at the associated teaching hospital. The faculty recently established Hong Kong’s first Infection Control Teaching Suite, which provides hands-on training for future dentists and dental hygienists.

Dean Prof. Thomas Frank Flemmig said that the faculty is planning for significant growth in the upcoming years. “In order to address the shortage of dentists in Hong Kong, we will take in more undergraduate students. There will be an approximate 40 per cent increase in the number of students admitted to the Bachelor of Dental Surgery program in the fall of this year.”

The annual QS World University Rankings highlight the world’s top universities in 42 subjects, based on academic reputation, employer reputation and research impact. The rankings aim to help prospective students identify the world’s leading schools in their chosen field, with the list of subjects extended each year in response to high demand for subject-level comparisons.

DTI launches new international orthodontic magazine

By DTI

HONG KONG/LEIPZIG, Germany: The orthodontic segment has grown significantly within the past 20 years owing to new technologies and products, as well as an increase in adult patients requiring orthodontic treatment. In response to this trend and to update dentists on the most significant developments in the field, Dental Tribune International (DTI) has added ortho—international magazine of orthodontics to its portfolio. The 2016 issue includes articles on clear aligners, vibration therapy and rapid maxillary expansion, as well as the latest product information and event previews.

The new high-gloss English-language magazine adopts an interdisciplinary approach involving orthodontics, oral surgery, prosthodontics and restorative dentistry, and aims to serve as an educational tool, providing comprehensive knowledge and information on the newest technology that can profitably be integrated into treatment concepts. The publication, which will be distributed at all major international orthodontic congresses and exhibitions, presents the latest research and case studies, as well as trends in procedures and techniques.

In order to connect with orthodontic specialists, the DTI team is scheduled to attend a number of orthodontic events around the globe in 2016, including the 23rd Congress of the European Orthodontic Society, which will take place between 11 and 16 June in Stockholm in Sweden; and the fourth Scientific Congress for Aligner Orthodontics, to be held on 18 and 19 November in Cologne in Germany. DTI will be providing comprehensive live coverage of these and other events on its website. In addition, e-newsletters sent to orthodontists worldwide.

From 2017, a new issue of the ortho magazine will be published twice a year with a print run of 4,000 copies. An e-paper edition of the magazine is available for free of charge via the DTI online print archive.