Survey indicates great concern over high dental care costs in Singapore

By DTI

SINGAPORE: A recent survey commissioned by the Singapore Dental Association (SDA) has inquired into the public’s confidence in dentists and assessed the overall level of concern about dental care costs in Singapore. The data revealed that the majority of the study participants struggle to meet rising dental care costs in the country.

The survey interviewed a total of 1,438 members of the public-aged between 25 and 60 years. All the respondents were Singaporeans, except for 26 permanent residents. More than two thirds of the respondents (71%) visited private dental practitioners and 29% visited public healthcare institutions.

The findings indicated that a staggering 95% of the study participants were unhappy about current dental care costs, and a third of the participants said that they would seek treatment overseas or turn to public healthcare institutions in the event of a further dental care cost increase. Nearly a fifth of the respondents stated that they had not visited a dentist in the last three years. However, those who had visited a dentist at least once in the last year were happy about the service they had received and had not filed any complaints against their dentist.

“The public survey gave us an opportunity to get a glimpse into the thoughts of Singaporeans and permanent residents. We are glad to find out that, despite the media reports on dentists recently, the survey reveals a very high confidence level in our dentists with regard to safety and competency in the delivery of dental care,” said chairman of the standing committee Dr Tang Kok Weng. “We share the public concern about the rising dental treatment fees. We hope that there are no external factors in the near future that may potentially increase the cost of delivery of dental care in Singapore,” he concluded.

Besides the rising dental care costs, 76% of the respondents were concerned about the rising cost of living in Singapore.

Deadline for CPD requirements fast approaching

By DTI

SYDNEY, Australia: Further education is not only important for dentists to remain up to date in their profession but also a prerequisite in order to remain a registered practitioner. The Dental Board of Australia requires every registered dentist to complete 60 hours of continuing professional development (CPD) over a three year cycle, and the current cycle finishes on 30 November this year.

There are a number of ways to meet this industry-set standard, from online webinars, such as those offered by the Dental Tribune Study Club, to seminars held by Australian Dental Association (ADA) branches and other healthcare and clinical organisations. However, owing to the number of options, which include peer-to-peer study and discussion groups, it is important to understand what, exactly, is classed as CPD accreditation.

The ADA and the Dental Board of Australia have laid out several key points, including the requirement that there is open disclosure about monetary or special interest any company whose products are discussed in the course. Content of CPD courses must be evidence-based. The practitioner might find that the information provided is confusing or unhelpful. The ADA has always made itself available for questions should practitioners need any assistance. The Dental Board of Australia too provides guidance in this area.

Recent published article by the Australian Dental Association, has discussed the best practices for recycling dental scrap to generate additional income for dental practice.