Australian Senate passes dental care bill

Starting in January 2014, the new scheme, called the Dental Benefits Amendment Bill 2012, will provide AUS$1,000 (US$1,045) over two years for families with children under the age of 17 who require basic dental treatment. Adults with concession cards, including pensioners, will be able to access the scheme later that year.

Overall, the government will stump up AUS$4 billion (US$4.18 billion) over six years for subsidised dental care. Services in underserved areas are also expected to receive a financial injection of AUS$225 million (US$275 million) over the same period.

Japan to invest into forensics

In an effort to boost the use of measures to identify victims of crimes and natural disasters, dental students in Japan will be required to answer questions on forensic dentistry in upcoming national dentistry examinations. The changes will be implemented by 2014 and followed by investments into training that will provide students with enhanced knowledge about how to identify bodies with the help of dental records, the country’s Ministry of Health announced.

Approximately 1,200 unidentified human bodies are found in Japan each year. In 2011, this number increased significantly owing to devastations caused by the Tohoku earthquake and the resulting tsunami. While 10 per cent of the victims were identified by their teeth, according to figures of the Japan Dental Association, forensic dentistry experts in Japan lack experience and are too few with only half a dozen experts available in some of the country’s provinces.

Bill discussed at Malaysia dental meeting

Representatives of the Malaysia Dental Association have criticised aspects of the country’s new dental bill at a joint meeting of the Malaysian and Singapore dental communities in December. President elect Dr Neoh Kian Soon said that his organisation is currently in discussions with political stakeholders in order to resolve the key issues recently put forward by the proposal.

Issued earlier this year, the bill is supposed to replace the 1973 Dental Act, which regulates the practice of dentistry in Malaysia. Among other things, it has been under scrutiny for excessive penalties and making it too easy for foreign practitioners to obtain temporary licences to practice.

Distinguished by innovation

Healthy teeth produce a radiant smile. We strive to achieve this goal on a daily basis. It inspires us to search for innovation, excellence and aesthetic solutions for direct filling procedures and the fabrication of restorations, fixed or removable solutions, so that you feel healthy products at your disposal to help people regain a beautiful smile.
DenTech Shanghai gains more ground in China

**DT Asia Pacific:**

**SHANGHAI, China: Attendance figures for DenTech China increased by another 4.5 per cent this year, UMI ShowStar, the organiser of China’s second-largest dental show, has reported. In addition to the growth in professional visitors, the exhibition saw 16 per cent higher participation by industry.**

According to the latest figures, almost 600 manufacturers and dealers of dental materials and equipment took part in DenTech China 2012, almost half of which were companies from abroad, with the US and Germany having the greatest representation. The company said it is now registered more than 68,000 visitors during the show held at the Shanghai World Expo Exhibition and Convention Center in late October.

The event also featured a four-day dental conference, a number of forums on specialties like implantology, and the sixth Asian Dental Lab Outsourcing Exhibition. DenTech China, which was first held in 1994, is staged annually in collaboration with the Chinese Stomatological Association and the School of Stomatology at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, among other dental institutions. Since March 2012, all operational activities have been managed by ShowStar Exhibition Service, a new company founded by the same team of experienced professionals from ShowStar Exhibition, a former joint venture between UBM, a UK-based B2B exhibitions provider with offices in Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong.

While the Green party, Labour’s coalition partner in the current minority government, applauded the new scheme as a historic step towards the proposed universal dental health care system, members of the opposition have lambasted the bill for overstretching the government’s budget. Dentists too have criticised the implementation of the scheme only in early 2014, which will leave children and adults previously covered by the CDDS without proper care for over 12 months.

“Treatment of the chronically ill, for which this scheme was designed, is often complex, requiring an extended period,” commented Dr Shane Fryer, President of the Australian Dental Association recently. “A 12-week period to complete treatment will mean that patients under the CDDS will not be able to finalise their treatment plans.”

Liberals claim that approximately one million patients have benefited from the CDDS so far. The new scheme will provide more than three million children and an additional one million adults with access to dental care, according to the government.

**International Imprint**

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**Editor DT Asia Pacific**

Douglas Young, DDS

08:00 p.m. EST

Dental caries is an infectious disease affecting children and adults throughout life. This course will address current trends in caries disease management utilizing caries management by risk assessment (CAMBRA), an evidence-based methodology that identifies the cause of disease by assessing risk factors for each individual patient. Based on the evidence presented, the clinician then corrects the problems (by managing the risk factors) using specific treatment recommendations including behavioral, chemical, and, minimally invasive procedures. Upon completion, the participant shall be able to properly perform a caries risk assessment and propose evidence-based treatment options to the patient. The participant will also have a thorough understanding of biological, chemical and mechanical aspects of caries disease.

**Register on www.dtstudioclub.com**

**UPCOMING WEBINARS**

**CARIES MANAGEMENT BY RISK ASSESSMENT (CAMBRA)**

Douglas Young, DDS

08:00 p.m. EST

**ORAL HEALTH AND PULMONARY DISEASE: LINKS BETWEEN THE ORAL MICROBIOTA & LUNG INFECTION**

Frank Scanlanpiec, DMD

08:00 p.m. EST (EST)

Recent research suggests associations between poor oral health status and pulmonary diseases such as pneumonia. This presentation will review the background information that suggests that oral bacteria influence the course of lung infection, and that improved hygiene may help reduce the risk of pneumonia in high-risk populations. Results will be presented from a recently completed pilot, randomized, placebo-controlled trial that evaluated the frequency of use of oral topical chlorhexidine gluconate (CHX) to prevent or reduce oropharyngeal colonization by respiratory pathogens in mechanically ventilated-intensive care unit (MV-ICU) patients. Results from ancillary molecular epidemiologic studies to genetically type bacterial strains cultured from lower airway secretions of MV-ICU patients and compare them to strains of the same species isolated from their dental plaque will also be presented. Participants will learn that there is evidence for and against the use of oral interventions to prevent pneumonia and that the oral microflora influences the initiation and/or progression of lung infection. Ideas for new strategies for the prevention of lung infections will also be presented.

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**DENTAL TRIBUNE Asia Pacific Edition**

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