

Presidential Message

SPECIALISATION POLICY

A policy is a statement of a course of action decided on by a person or persons and the A.S.O.'s policy on specialisation was well discussed and debated both in the state branches and at the General Meeting in Melbourne before its adoption in March, 1973.

As stated in the A.S.O. Newsletter No. 1, copies of the policy were sent to various bodies in Australia for their information. As a result of this several replies requested more detailed information concerning the Society's criteria for selecting "approved institutions" and, in particular, the names of these institutions.

It is clear then that the Society will have to examine this question again and following a meeting of the A.S.O. Federal Council in Adelaide on 2nd March, the policy will be discussed at a General Meeting to be held in Sydney on Monday, 16th July, during the XXth Australian Dental Congress and the 61st Annual Session of the F.D.I.

The essential requirement of the policy is the period of two years' full-time training in which all clinical sessions should be directly supervised by university staff. The syllabus of the course should, in general, include most of the subjects specified by the A.S.O., but it is recognised that teaching institutions will, of course, conduct their courses in relation to their own particular interests and facilities. This recognition of institutions and of individual courses must be decided on their merits.

At present, the specialisation policy is used as the basis for considering applications for full membership of the Society, but correspondence with other bodies who have been sent a copy of our policy indicates that it is under consideration for their adoption also.

One important reason for establishing and announcing the policy was for the guidance of the state Dental Boards, and hopefully, to provide a starting point for the establishment of a national specialist register under the aegis of a General Dental Council of Australia.

J.F.R.