



PRE-AGM25 CONSULTATION



Dentist Membership Question

This report summarises the inputs of the pre-annual general meeting 2025 CMFnz members consultation on the question:

Do you support CMFnz adjusting its constitution to include a full membership option for Dentists and student membership for student dentists?

REASONS FOR

Reasons to invite Dentists into Full Membership of CMFnz

- **Shared Values and Roles:** Dentists share similar ethical concerns and professional standards with doctors, making them a natural fit. Dentists share similarities with doctors in training and independent practice, especially in hospitals, and are traditionally aligned in New Zealand (NZ) through MECA and unions.
- **No existing group for Christian dentists:** Collaboration among Christian doctors and dentists is beneficial given NZ's population size.
- **Global affiliations:** ICMDA, CMDFA, and CMDA offer networking opportunities for medical and dental networks. CMFnz is a member of ICMDA and a dentist currently represents Oceania in ICMDA.
- **The impact on CMFnz would be minimal:** A few interested Christian dentists have engaged with existing CMFnz activities. Their feedback on existing offerings has been favourable. Dentist specific offerings could be developed by Dental members if there is demand. CMDFA reports this model works well in Australia. There are no major impediments or barriers to including dentists as full members, save constitutional adjustments.
- **Enhanced Collaboration:** Inclusion could foster synergistic relationships in patient care, global missions, and spiritual support.
- **Equal Participation:** Full membership offers voting rights, a sense of ownership, and access to international networks and conferences.



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REASONS FOR

Reasons to invite Dentists into Full Membership of CMFnz

- **Financial Contributions:** Full members may contribute more financially, supporting CMF's sustainability.
- **Strong Member Support:** An indicative poll showed 80 members in favour, with only 4 against.
- **Strengthening ties on Campus:** CMFnz groups can support Christian dental students and enhance their contributions to campus activities. Potential for collaboration with other healthcare student groups at universities.
- **Growing Student Engagement:** There's increasing interest from dental students in Christian missions and CMF activities.
- **Leadership Potential:** Opportunities exist for dental faculty staff to mentor and lead student initiatives.



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Comment from Peter Saunders, President of the International Medical and Dental Association:

ICMDA represents both doctors and dentists and most of our 107 affiliated national member organisations include both. In fact, the most common name for a national movement is CMDA.

There are some exceptions including the UK, South Africa and New Zealand but notably the US, Canada and Australia all include dentists. In fact, in the US dentists are called doctors and doctors are called physicians. In the UK, there is a separate CDF and although there have been discussions, the two groups (CMF and CDF) have been quite happy to continue as they are and both are separately affiliated with ICMDA. Also, quite a few of our national groups include other health professionals and particularly nurses (CMF UK being a case in point).

Obviously, it is entirely up to the national movement's board to make these decisions and ICMDA is really happy either way. However, given that there is no separate CDF in New Zealand (as I understand), it would make sense to allow them to join. My own experience is that including the dentists brings a further richness to the fellowship and a number of our ICMDA fieldworkers are dentists, and also our last international board chair. Hedwin Kadrianto and Sheena Li, respectively AEO and regional secretary for ICMDA Oceania, are both dentists.

Obviously, it is a delicate matter for you to discuss internally and come to a consensus decision, but my own instinct would be to go ahead with it. I will be praying for you as you take it forward.



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REASONS **AGAINST**

Reasons not to offer Full membership of CMFnz to Dentists

- **Why single out dentists?** If we invite dentists, should we not also be inviting paramedics and nurse practitioners into full membership?
- **A broader approach needed** Could there be a Christian Health Professionals Fellowship, encompassing multiple allied health professions. Inviting only dentists to join leaves other dental health professionals, such as dental technicians, without a realistic opportunity to form a fellowship within their own working environment. Note a caution re. ICMDA quotas for full doctor/dentist memberships in event of a broader expansion proposal.
- **Dentists could form their own allied fellowship**, similar to Nurses Christian Fellowship NZ (NCFNZ).
- **Medical mission drift:** CMFnz could lose focus on its primary mission, medical specific offerings and partnerships. Expanding membership to dentists might dilute the Christian doctor and nurse community, potentially discouraging new medical members from joining. Doctors and Nurses are a more natural fit, as we work together so closely.
- **CMFnz lacks capacity** to produce dental specific leadership & content
- **Constitutional Change:** Full membership would require changes to CMF's constitution.
- **Associate Membership sufficient:** Some members suggested exploring associate membership or forming a special group within associate membership to avoid formal changes.
- **Limited Existing Infrastructure:** Sparse information and engagement from campus dental groups.
- **Need for Relationship Building:** It may be prudent to emphasise developing connections and networks before formal inclusion.



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PRE-AGM25 MEMBER POLL

Analysis Report

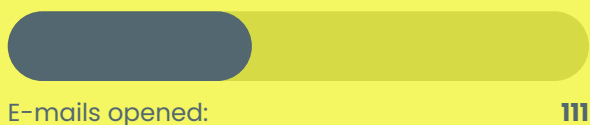


The results of a pre-annual general meeting 2025 indicative poll of CMFnz members indicated a positive response to the question:

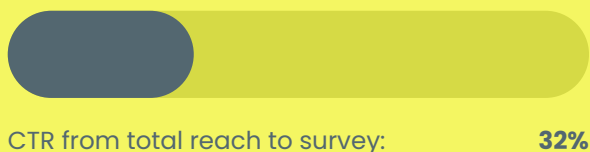
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Member Engagement

Reach and emails opened



Click-through Rate



Survey Results

Time Frame: April 22, 2025 – May 26, 2025

84 respondents



The question will be voted on by members at the Christian Medical Fellowship NZ Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 20th August 2025.