

SINGAPORE DENTAL COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE INQUIRY FOR DR THAM KAR YENG & DR JADE FOO SEE THENG

- The Singapore Dental Council ("SDC") held a Disciplinary Inquiry against Dr Tham Kar Yeng ("Dr Tham") and Dr Jade Foo See Theng ("Dr Foo"). Both Dr Tham and Dr Foo were dentists practising at Caring Dental (Punggol) located at 665A Punggol Drive, #01-02, Singapore 821665 (the "Clinic") at the material time.
- 2. Dr Tham and Dr Foo each faced a single charge of professional misconduct under the Dental Registration Act (Cap. 76): Dr Tham was charged for failing to supervise Dr Foo, a conditionally registered dentist, while she was working at the Clinic on 21 December 2016; while Dr Foo was charged for working at the Clinic on 21 December 2016 without supervision whilst still under conditional registration.
- Dr Tham and Dr Foo each pleaded guilty to the charge against them on 16 July 2018.
- 4. In coming to its decision, the Disciplinary Committee ("DC") noted that the unsupervised treatment of patients by a conditionally registered dentist needed to attract a sanction with sufficient deterrence. The DC also regarded Dr Tham as being more culpable than Dr Foo by virtue of her status as a fully registered dentist and supervisor, who should be held to a higher standard.
- 5. Taking into account all the circumstances of the case, the DC made the following orders:
 - a. Dr Tham is to pay a penalty of \$8,000, be censured, give a written undertaking to the SDC that she will not in future engage in the conduct complained of and any other similar conduct, and pay 80% of the costs and expenses of and incidental to the DC proceedings; and



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- b. Dr Foo is to pay a penalty of \$3,000, be censured, give a written undertaking to the SDC that she will not in future engage in the conduct complained of and any other similar conduct, and pay 20% of the costs and expenses of and incidental to the DC proceedings.
- 6. The DC also ordered that the decision be published.

SINGAPORE DENTAL COUNCIL 19 October 2018