Dental market blues in Australia

SYDNEY, Australia: Asia-Pacific’s second largest dental market has weakened further. Figures from the Australian Dental Industry Intelligence Report released at a recent industry meeting show that sales of dental equipment and supplies in the country have declined for the second consecutive year.

In total, the industry recorded revenues of AU$671 million (US$695 million), which was three per cent less compared with 2010/2011. Prior to that, the market had already seen a drop of three per cent.

The largest decrease in the 2011/2012 fiscal year was reported in the equipment sector, including imaging hard- and software, where sales fell by 12 per cent. In the same period, sales of orthodontic and restorative products, however, rose by 12 per cent. In the same period, software, where sales fell by three per cent last year.

According to 2012/2013 Industry Intelligence Report commissioned in order to comment on the matter.

DT Asia Pacific

ADIA elects Gunz MD president

The Australian Dental Industry Association (ADIA) has elected Trevor Martin as the organisation’s next national president. He will take over from fellow board member Daryn Bunger, Sirona Dental Systems, who has been serving as the organisation’s president since 2010.

Martin is currently Managing Director of Gunz Dental, a large distributor of dental products based in Sydney. He has been a board member of the association since 2008. In a statement, the 51-year-old announced that he will focus on broadening the association’s membership base and intends to work closely with the Australian government regarding the regulation of dental products during his two-year term. With 118 member companies, the ADIA claims to represent the interests of the dental industry in Australia.

NZ dentists gnash over quake effects

According to the New Zealand Dental Association, symptoms like fractured cusps, believed to result from bruxism owing to stress, are increasingly being reported by dentists in Canterbury, an area on the South Island that was heavily affected by the country’s second-largest earthquake last year. Clinicians are now closely working with family counsellors and physicians to support those patients even after having received dental treatment, the organisation said.

The area around Christchurch, the country’s second-most populous city, was severely affected in February 2011 by a 6.3 magnitude earthquake that killed more than 185 people and left thousands homeless. It was followed by a series of after-shocks in June and December that same year.

Owing to the destruction, many dentists are still working from temporary premises or sharing offices with other practitioners.