



Communiqué

Tenth meeting of the Dental Board of Australia 29 July 2010

The Dental Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (National Law). At the tenth meeting, on 29 July 2010, the Board made its first decisions under the National Law as the legislation has now commenced operation in all jurisdictions (except Western Australia).

Information on Board's website

The Board is progressively publishing information on its website at www.dentalboard.gov.au and developing new Information Sheets, Frequently Asked Questions and new forms for registration applications and changes to registrant details.

Dental Practitioners are encouraged to check the website regularly for updates and new information.

Oral Health Therapists

The Board has released an information update for registrants about registration in the Oral Health Therapists (OHT) division of the Register of Dental Practitioners.

This Information Update provides detail in relation to:

1. Eligibility for registration in the division of OHT
2. Transitioning registrants with OHT Bachelor qualifications
3. Dental practitioners with other qualifications – establishment of an expert Working Group
4. Use of title *Oral Health Therapist*

This information update is now available on the Board's website at www.dentalboard.gov.au

Add-on courses

The Board's Scope of Practice Registration Standard states that dental practitioners should only perform dental procedures:

- a) for which they have been formally educated and trained in programs of study approved by the Board; and
- b) in which they are competent.

The Board is in the process of developing a list of add-on programs of study to allow for the extension of practice for dental practitioners. This list will be published on the Board's website soon.

Conscious sedation area of practice endorsement

The Board has agreed on a process of assessment pathways and will soon release information for dentists eligible for the conscious sedation area of practice endorsement, but who may not currently meet the requirements of the Registration Standard.

Dental Practitioners practising in Western Australia

Dental Practitioners who have transitioned to the national scheme are now able to practise across Australia (except Western Australia) through one registration. Western Australia is expected to join the scheme later in 2010. Anyone who wishes to practise in Western Australia until then must register with the WA Board. Similarly, a dental practitioner from Western Australia who wishes to practise in other parts of Australia must first register with the Dental Board of Australia.

Application forms are available on the Board's website.

State and Regional Boards of the Dental Board of Australia

The Dental Board of Australia decided late in 2009 to establish the following State and Regional Boards:

- Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania and Victoria
- Northern Territory and South Australia
- Queensland
- New South Wales
- Western Australia

These State and Regional Boards and committees of these boards will provide invaluable support for the National Board in carrying out its role and will be a key connection with each State and Territory.

Dr John Lockwood
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
11 August 2010