



Communiqué

Twelfth meeting of the Dental Board of Australia 24 September 2010

The Dental Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (National Law).

Information on the Board's website

The Board continues to progressively publish information on its website at www.dentalboard.gov.au and is 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.

Dental Practitioners practising in Western Australia

Western Australia will join the national registration and accreditation scheme on 18 October 2010. WA dental practitioners who are currently registered or licensed under WA legislation will automatically transition to registration under the National Scheme.

WA dental practitioners will be required to renew their registration under the National Scheme before 31 December 2010. A letter will be sent to practitioners from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency in November/December 2010 which will provide details in relation to the process of renewal. Practitioners' registration will be renewed until 30 November 2011 which will bring WA dental practitioners in line with the registration cycle under the National Scheme.

WA dental practitioners are encouraged to regularly view the information on the Board's website at www.dentalboard.gov.au.

Information forum for Western Australian Dental Prosthetists

The Board will be holding an information forum in Perth for Dental Prosthetists between 8am and 10am on the **15 November 2010**. The forum will provide information for Dental Prosthetists on the new regulatory requirements of the National Scheme. Further information regarding the location of the meeting will be available on the Board's website.

Registration Standards

The Board will release the following Registration Standards for a two month public consultation period:

- Section 66 – Limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice;
- Section 68 – Limited registration in public interest
- Section 69 – Limited registration for teaching and research
- Section 53(b) – General Registration for dental practitioners with qualifications substantially equivalent to approved qualifications

Dental Prosthetists / Dental Therapists / Dental Hygienists

A list of add-on courses for Dental Prosthetists, Dental Therapists and Dental Hygienists was approved by the Board and will be published on the Board's website. These courses are relevant for dental practitioners when considering development of their scope of practice, and practitioners are reminded of the Board's *Scope of Practice Registration Standard* which requires that a:

*dental practitioner can **only** perform dental procedures for which they have been **formally educated** and trained in programs of study **approved by the Dental Board** and in which they are **competent**.*

Forensic Odontology

The Board agreed with the recommendation from the Board's Registration and Notification Committee to allow a 12 month transitional pathway for dentists to register as forensic odontology specialists who have qualifications equivalent to New South Wales and Tasmanian dentists recognised as forensic odontology specialists. Dentists in NSW and Tasmanian were the only dentists to transition into the specialty of forensic odontology as these were the only jurisdictions where the specialty was recognised prior to the National Scheme commencing.

Registered Dentists with qualifications in the specialty of forensic odontology are encouraged to complete an *Application for specialist registration for a dentist* form which can be found on the Board's website at www.dentalboard.gov.au

Conscious Sedation Area of Practice endorsement

The Board's Conscious Sedation Working Group met for the first time on 27 September 2010. The Board will release information for dentists who practise in the area of conscious sedation and consider they are eligible for the conscious sedation area of practice endorsement. Dentists who practise in this area should note they have 12 months after their relevant State or Territory is a participating jurisdiction (i.e. for all States and Territories except WA this is 1 July 2011) to meet the requirements of the Board's *Conscious Sedation Registration Standard*.

Dual qualified Dental Therapists and Dental Hygienists

Dual qualified Dental Therapists and Dental Hygienists are eligible to apply to the Board to change their registration to the division of Oral Health Therapist (OHT), provided they have the appropriate training (a three year bachelor program) and recency of practice in both dental hygiene and dental therapy. Practitioners who were registered as OHTs in New South Wales on 30 June 2010 have automatically transitioned into the division of OHTs on the National Register. For further information please refer to the Information Sheet on the Board's website www.dentalboard.gov.au

A list of the programs of study allowing dual registrants to apply for registration in the division of OHT (*Qualifications which lead to general registration as an oral health*) and a **change division to OHT** form can also be found at the Board's website.

John Lockwood
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
8 October 2010