



Communiqué

Fourteenth meeting of the Dental Board of Australia - 26 November 2010

The Dental Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (National Law) as in force in each state and territory.

Oral medicine and oral pathology - transitional issues

Some issues have been raised regarding possible inconsistencies in the transition to the Board's specialist register for oral medicine and oral pathology. The Board has agreed to establish a small Working Group with the requisite expertise to review these issues and make recommendations to the Board.

New "Limited Registrants" – Teaching and Research and Post Graduate Training/Supervised Practice

The Board discussed the need to remind overseas trained dentists, employers and educational institutions regarding future eligibility for Limited registrants to register as a 'specialist dentist' under the National law. The Board acknowledges that there was a pathway in Victoria for dentists to be recognised as a specialist and not be registered on the general register of dentists, however this legislation has now been repealed.

The Board's Specialist Registration Standard (which can be found on the Board's website at www.dentalboard.gov.au) requires that all registrants applying for specialist registration **must have:**

- completed a minimum of two years general dental practice (this requirement may be achieved by experience outside Australia, subject to assessment and approval by the Board); **and**
- met all other requirements for general registration as a dentist.

'Holding out' offences under the National Law

The National Law creates certain offences and amongst these are the 'holding out' offences (see sections 113 – 120). These provisions prohibit persons (including health practitioners) from '*holding themselves out*' to be registered health practitioners when they are not and holding out to be in a division of the register when they are not.

Holding out offences are likely to arise in three kinds of situations: registered practitioners, lapsed practitioners and imposters:

- (a) A registered practitioner (in one division of the national register) who hold themselves out to be registered in a different division of the register, or practices outside of the scope of practice of the division, may be in breach of the holding out offences;
- (b) A lapsed practitioner, who was formerly registered or formally registered in a division of the register, continues to practice the profession and in doing so may be in breach of the holding out offences; and
- (c) An imposter purporting to be a health practitioner, despite having never been qualified for registration.

Check the National Register

The Board encourages all **prospective employers and employees** to on check the National Register – to find out relevant information about your prospective employee or employer registration status!

English Language for new graduates

The Board agreed at its October 2010 meeting to further clarification and exemptions in relation to the Board's English Language Skills Registration Standard specifically that the Board will:

- accept (for currently registering new graduates) an OET or IELTS test result that is more than two years old, provided it is accompanied by proof that the candidate has since been continuously enrolled in a Board approved program of study; and
- accept that students who completed the last two years of their secondary education in English meet the requirement of having 'undertaken and completed secondary education' taught and assessed in English in one of the following countries where English is the native or first language: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States of America.

At this time, the Board did not agree to any further exemptions from the English Language Skills Registration Standard for new graduates.

Conscious Sedation Area of Practice endorsement

A reminder that the Board has released a *Registration Guideline for Conscious Sedation Area of Practice Endorsement* (the Guideline), which can be found on the Board's website at www.dentalboard.gov.au. The Guideline will assist dentists who practise in the area of conscious sedation to determine their eligibility to apply for the Conscious sedation area of practice endorsement.

Dentists who practise in the area of conscious sedation have **12 months** after their relevant state or territory became a participating jurisdiction in the national scheme (i.e. for all states and territories except Western Australia (WA) the date is 1 July 2011, for WA the date is 18 October 2011) to meet the requirements of the Board's Registration Standard for *Endorsement in relation to conscious sedation*.

In addition, the Board noted that the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons has now formally adopted the new Guidelines on Sedation - PS9 (dated September 2010). A copy of the new Guidelines can be found at:

http://www.racds.org/RACDS_Content/About_RACDS/PDFs/Conscious_Sedation.aspx

Dual qualified Dental Therapists and Dental Hygienists

A reminder that the Board has agreed for two additional transitional pathways for registration in the division of Oral Health Therapist (OHT). Dental practitioners should refer to the Oral Health Therapist's Registration August 2010 document which has been updated and to reflect the new pathways and is on the Board's website at www.dentalboard.gov.au. These additional transitional pathways will be open **until 31 October 2011** for dental practitioners to register in the division of OHT

John Lockwood
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
3 December 2010