



## Communiqué

### Fifteenth meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 17 December 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.

#### Processing of renewals of registration

AHPRA have advised the Board that due to the number of renewal applications being processed at present, it may take some time for AHPRA to finalise the renewal of registration for dental practitioners (and other health practitioners registered under the national scheme). A dental practitioners ability to practise is not affected by this expected processing time. Under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law*, where a renewal application has been lodged on time, the registration continues until the renewal application is finalised.

AHPRA have advised the Board that when a renewal has been finalised, written confirmation from AHPRA will be provided. In the meantime, if a dental practitioner needs to confirm their registration status, a search of the public register at:

<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registers-of-Practitioners.aspx> will confirm registration. Only the names of registered dental practitioners are displayed. The search page confirms that under the National Law, registrants are able to continue to practise whilst their renewal application is being processed. Therefore registrants may be correctly displayed as 'Registered', but have a registration expiry date that has passed.

#### Scope of Practice

The Board would like to remind all dental practitioners that the Board's Scope of Practice Registration Standard was developed to encompass the variations of how 'scope of practice' was regulated amongst jurisdictions prior to the national scheme commencing. The Dental Board's Scope of Practice Registration Standard 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.*

Therefore if a dental practitioner:

1. has been formally educated/trained in a dental procedure through an approved (or previously approved) add-on program or through their original approved program which led to registration; and
2. are competent to perform the dental procedure and meet the Board's recency of practice requirements

then the dental procedure is within their scope of practice.

#### Supervision Guidelines

The Board is about to release Supervision Guidelines for consultation for dental practitioners with Limited registrants. Dental practitioners should note that these guidelines do not apply to the broader supervision requirements of dental practitioners. Dental practitioners with general registration are able to supervise the practice of other dental practitioners or student dental practitioners which is within their scope of practice Registration Standard. For dental

therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists the supervision of other dental practitioners or student dental practitioners must be included in the arrangements of the structured relationship with a dentist.

### **Review of conditions on registration**

The Board has undertaken a review of the wording of the requirements of registration which have transitioned for dental practitioners in the category of Limited registration. The Board will work towards a standardised approach to the wording of the requirements of Limited registration.

### **Meetings with key stakeholders**

Representatives of the Board have recently met with representatives of the Australian Dental Council and the Australasian Council of Dental Schools to discuss current issues. The ADC has submitted its first round of accreditation reports to the Board for consideration – the process for the approval of courses has commenced under the National Law.

### **Planning session**

As a part of its December 2010 meeting the Board undertook a planning session to establish its work plan for 2011. The Board will continue to have a demanding 2011 finalising the transition to the national scheme and developing further the foundations of the national scheme as it relates to dental practitioners.

### **Season's greetings**

The Board would like to take this opportunity to extend season's greetings to all dental practitioners and to the Board's stakeholders. Thank you for all your support during 2010 and we look forward to working together in 2011.

John Lockwood  
Chair, Dental Board of Australia  
24 December 2010