



Communiqué

Seventeenth meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 30 March 2011

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.

This communiqué highlights key issues from the Board's last meeting. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

The March 2011 Board meeting was held in Brisbane, to coincide with a number of Board members attending the Australian Dental Association Congress which was also held in Brisbane. Representatives from the Dental Council of New Zealand and the Australian Dental Council (ADC) attended the March 2011 Board meeting. A key agenda item the March 2011 meeting was a planning discussion and early decisions regarding the 2011-2012 Board budget.

In addition, representatives of the Board met with representatives from the Australian Dental Association, Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists' Association, Dental Technicians Board of Queensland and Australian Dental Prosthetists and Dental Technicians Education Advisory Council.

Consultation on Limited Registration categories and Supervision Guidelines

The Board would like to thank all key stakeholders and dental practitioners who responded to the consultation on the draft Supervision Guidelines and Limited Registration categories. The Board will review the consultation feedback in the months ahead and finalise the Supervision Guidelines and Limited Registration – Registration Standards. These will be published on the website when finalised.

Working Group Oral Health Therapists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists

The Working Group met in March to discuss the strategy for the management of the Board's Scope of Practice Registration Standard review. The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council, in April 2010, requested the Board review the Scope of Practice Registration Standard to *assess whether the approved standard has any unintended and negative impacts on the scope of practice of oral health therapists, dental therapists and dental hygienists.*

The Working Group and the Board are aware of the current processes being undertaken by Health Workforce Australia which has been tasked by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Advisory Council to review *the roles and scope of practice of therapists and hygienists.* This review is required to be undertaken before the Board review.

Working Group Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology

The Working Group met again in March 2011 to further discuss both the transition and future issues in relation to the specialist categories of oral medicine and oral pathology. Representatives of the Board and the Working Group will meet with key stakeholders in the months ahead.

Accreditation

Representatives of the Board met with representatives of the ADC after the March 2011 Board meeting to discuss current accreditation issues and future accreditation processes under the national registration and accreditation scheme.

Conscious Sedation Area of Practice endorsement

The Board has now updated its *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 update aims to provide more clarity for dentists in the Category 5 transition group in the Guideline. These dentists are:

- Validly registered as dentist by the Board
- Transitioned to the national scheme from a jurisdiction where there was no requirement to be recognised or endorsed by the previous state or territory board in order to practise conscious sedation and
- Do not hold an approved qualification or any qualification for conscious sedation.

The Board would like to remind and encourage all dentists who practice in the area of conscious sedation to apply for endorsement in relation to conscious sedation. Dentists who practice in the area of conscious sedation have 12 months (after the date that the state or territory became a participating jurisdiction) to comply with all requirements of the Board's Registration Standard. For all states and territories except Western Australia (WA) the date is 1 July 2011, for WA the date is 18 October 2011. The application form can be found on the Board's website at: <http://www.dentalboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx>

Website and receiving important information by email

Further information about the Board can be found on the Board's website at: www.dentalboard.gov.au and practitioners are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on Policy and Guidelines affecting their profession.

The Board encourages practitioners to provide AHPRA with a current email contact address by updating their contact details through online services. This will enable AHPRA to contact practitioners about important registration information and the National Board to contact practitioners with important updates for the profession.

John Lockwood
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
08 April 2011