



Communiqué

Nineteenth meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 27 May 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 this meeting, the Board considered a wide range of issues including further responses to the Board's recent consultation on guidelines and standards, Health Workforce Australia's draft National Health Workforce Innovation and Reform Strategic Framework for Action in Australia and a draft Guideline for the Registration Standard for Endorsement in Relation to Conscious Sedation.

The Board's next meeting will be held in Sydney and attendees will include the current Chair's of the State and Regional Boards.

Consultation on the Supervision Guidelines, section 53(b) and Limited Registration - Registration Standards

The Board would again like to thank all key stakeholders and dental practitioners who responded to this consultation. The Board has commenced its review of the consultation feedback. The finalised Supervision Guidelines, section 53(b) and Limited Registration – Registration Standards will be published in the upcoming months on the website (www.dentalboard.gov.au).

Audit of compliance with Registration Standards

The Board noted that the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has commenced a project to implement an audit of compliance process with the mandatory Registration Standards across all ten National Boards. A communication strategy will be a central part of the audit of compliance project to key stakeholders. Further information for key stakeholders will be published in upcoming months.

Health Workforce Australia's draft National Health Workforce Innovation and Reform Strategic Framework for Action

The Board considered and provided feedback to the Health Workforce Australia's draft National Health Workforce Innovation and Reform Strategic Framework for Action (the draft Framework). The Board encourages all of its key stakeholders to consider the draft Framework and become engaged with the further progress of its development.

Draft Guideline for the Registration Standard for Endorsement in Relation to Conscious Sedation

The Board considered a draft Guideline - Conscious Sedation Area of Practice Endorsement (the draft Guideline). The Registration Standard for *Endorsement in relation to Conscious Sedation* (the Standard) establishes the requirements of the Board in relation to an endorsement in relation to conscious sedation for dentists. This draft Guideline provides further detail for registrants in relation to the specific practice requirements of the Standard.

The Board will first undertake internal consultation on the draft Guideline and then release for broader stakeholder consultation in July 2011.

Dental practitioner treatment of a patient under sedation

The Board agreed to clarify that dental practitioners, who are not able to administer intravenous medication under relevant State or Territory legislation, should not provide treatment to patients under intravenous sedation, unless the requirements of the Board's *Registration Standard for Endorsement in relation to Conscious Sedation* (the Standard) are met.

The Standard requires that where intravenous sedation is used, as a minimum, there must be two registered health practitioners in the room, one who is able to administer intravenous conscious sedation (as a minimum a dentist who is endorsed to provide conscious sedation - this requires endorsement by the Board from 1 July 2011 or 18 October 2011 for Western Australian dentists). Secondly, that the other practitioner is able to administer intravenous medication under relevant State or Territory legislation, this could be another dentist, a medical practitioner or a registered nurse as set out in the Standard.

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 dental practitioners.

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

John Lockwood
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
2 June 2011