



Communiqué

Twenty-third meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 16 September 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.

The September 2011 meeting of the Board was held in Sydney, to coincide with the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme Annual Conference. The Chairs of the Board's Registration and Notification Committees (or their representatives) also attended the Board meeting and conference proceedings.

This communiqué highlights the key issues from the Board's September meeting and a number of other matters the Board would like to highlight to dental practitioners.

Dr Neil Burman

The Board acknowledged the sudden passing of Dr Neil Burman on Sunday 11 September 2011. The Board recognised Dr Burman's contributions to the dental industry and his commitment to the dental profession was well respected and admired.

Finalisation of the Limited Registration – Registration Standards

The Board finalised the Limited Registration – Registration Standards for:

- *Postgraduate Training or Supervised Practice* (section 66); and
- *Teaching or Research* (section 69)

These finalised Limited Registration – Registration Standards will now be forwarded to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for consideration, in accordance with the requirements of section 12 of the National Law.

At the time of consulting on the above registration standards, the Board also consulted on a *Registration Standard for Limited registration in the public interest* (section 68). The Board has decided that finalisation of this standard be deferred until the outcomes of the public consultation phase of the definition of 'practice'. The Board would also like to remind dental practitioners of the *recent Interim Policy*, which is applicable until 30 June 2012, regarding Limited registration in the public interest:

"Overseas qualified dental practitioners are not required to have limited registration in the public interest where they are making a presentation, speaking or lecturing which does not involve (hands on) clinical practice. The overseas qualified dental practitioners must not:

- a. undertake clinical practice or supervise dental practitioners in any capacity in Australia; or
- b. use a protected title under the National Law or hold themselves out as a registered dental practitioner in Australia."

Finalisation of the Supervision Guidelines

The Board finalised the *Supervision Guidelines for dental practitioners with Limited Registration*. The final guidelines will be published on the Board's website in the near future. The guidelines are relevant for dental practitioners with Limited Registration, their supervisors and the employers/education

providers and (when published) will be available online at www.dentalboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/Policies-Codes-Guidelines.aspx.

Limited registrants seeking renewal of limited registration will be required to comply with the Guidelines (particularly in relation to annual reporting) when they **renew in 2012**. For the upcoming 2011 renewal period it will be expected that dental practitioners are working towards compliance with the Guidelines.

Recency of practice / Return to work

The Board has established a Working Group to consider and develop a nationally consistent approach to the processes of assessment of recency of practice and return to practice requirements for dental practitioners.

Annual Report

In accordance with the requirements of the National Law, AHPRA will soon release the 2010-2011 Annual Report. The report will detail the financial statement and the performance of the Board and AHPRA over the period, specifically the registration of dental practitioners and the number and management of notifications regarding dental practitioners.

Advertising by dental practitioners

The National Law includes new powers in relation to advertising by registered health practitioners. As well, National Boards have developed Advertising Guidelines that clarify the Board's expectations of practitioners in this area.

For many dental practitioners in a number of jurisdictions, both the legal framework and the standards expected by the Board are different to those previously in place before July 2010. As a result, for the first year of the National Scheme the Board (and all National Boards) has taken a largely educative approach to matters related to advertising, by helping dental practitioners understand the law and the new requirements set down in the Board's Advertising Guidelines.

However the Board expects dental practitioners to ensure that their advertising complies with the Board's guidelines. The Board particularly highlights **section 5(b) of the Guidelines** which states that ***advertising of services must not encourage unnecessary use of health services; for example references to a person improving their physical appearance***. The Board considers the use of such services and claims as unacceptable advertising.

Next year the Board will adopt a more structured approach to addressing concerns about advertising, including an escalating series of warnings to the dental practitioner, initially reminding them of their obligations about advertising and ultimately, possible prosecution for non-compliance with the National Law and the Board's guidelines. If the Board deems that a dental practitioner's failure to comply with a Board's request warrants it, matters related to advertising can also be progressed through the conduct and performance pathways of the National Law.

Use of Botulinum Toxin (Botox)

The Board would like to remind dental practitioners of its *INTERIM POLICY Use of Botulinum Toxin (Botox)* (the Policy) which is available on the Board's website at <http://www.dentalboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines.aspx>:

The opinion of the Board is that injection of Botox outside of the use indicated in the Policy does not form part of the practice of dentistry. Broader use by dentists whether trained or not is not appropriate. Dental practitioners should consult the TGA and manufacturers' approved therapeutic use of such medications. Practitioners should also consult their professional advisers and indemnity cover for use in Australia.

Current consultation

The Board currently has the draft *Guideline - Conscious Sedation Area of Practice Endorsement* out for consultation. The draft Guideline provides further detail for registrants in relation to the specific practice requirements of the Registration standard for Endorsement in Relation to Conscious Sedation - **Responses are due by 7 October 2011.**

Dental Prosthetist Forum

In collaboration with the Australian Dental Council (ADC), the Board is holding a forum for **current** dental prosthetist education providers on 14 October 2011. The purpose of the forum is to provide guidance to dental prosthetist education providers on the accreditation requirements of the National Law, the general process of accreditation and the expectations of the Board and the ADC.

Renewal of dental practitioner registration

The *November Renewal Campaign* has commenced with renewal of registration required by **30 November 2011** – reminders to renew are being emailed to registrants (where AHPRA holds a current email address). At the completion of this registration renewal cycle all dental practitioners in Australia will be aligned and annual registration renewal will be due by 30 November each year.

The Board also reminds dental practitioners that under the National Law, all registered dental practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time each year and **there is no option for AHPRA or the Board to renew your registration after it has lapsed without a new application.**

Renewal of conscious sedation endorsement

As the November Renewal Campaign has commenced the Board reminds dentists with an endorsement for conscious sedation, that in order to renew their endorsement the dentist must provide a **certified copy of the attendance certificate** (in the last 12 months) from a Board approved refresher course to AHPRA (as set out in in relation to conscious sedation Board's Endorsement in Relation to Conscious Sedation Registration Standard).

Dentist's wishing to renew their endorsement are advised as follows:

- **Renewing online** - You must email a certified copy of the attendance certificate from a Board approved refresher course to AHPRA, as evidence that you have attended within in the last 12 months to DentalCS@ahpra.gov.au and include your name and Registration Number in the subject line; **or**
- **Renewing by returning the paper renewal form to AHPRA** – Attach a certified copy of the attendance certificate as evidence you have attended the refresher course approved by the Board, in the last 12 months.
- **Declarations made during renewals are subject to audit.**

John Lockwood
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
26 September 2011