



Communiqué

Twenty-sixth meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 16 December 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 the key issues from the Board's final meeting of 2011 and a number of other matters the Board would like to point out to dental practitioners. The Board will not meet in January 2012.

Meeting with Health Workforce Australia

Representatives from Health Workforce Australia attended the Board meeting to present and discuss HWA's rural and remote framework. Discussion focussed on issues related to dental practitioners in rural and remote areas.

Further clarification regarding Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The Board considered a number of issues which had been raised related to recognition of CPD credit for hours spent studying in either a postgraduate training or other programs/courses. The CPD Frequently Asked Questions will be updated in the upcoming months to reflect the Board's position.

2012 Board work plan

The Board commenced consideration of its 2012 Work plan, to be finalised early in the New Year. The Board also reflected and acknowledged the work undertaken in 2011. The focus of 2012 will be to finalise any outstanding transition issues, continue work on national consistency (both for dental practitioners and with the other National Boards) and commence the process of review of the Registration Standards, Codes and Guidelines due in 2013.

Renewal of dental practitioner registration

The national registration of 17,900 dental practitioners across Australia was due to be renewed with the Board by 30 November 2011. The Board is pleased to advise that 95 percent of dental practitioners submitted their application for renewal of registration to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) on time. These dental practitioners have either been registered to practise until 30 November 2012 or their application is still in assessment.

Dental practitioners who are awaiting confirmation that their registration has been renewed are still able to practise while their application is assessed. Their name remains listed on the national Register of Dental Practitioners.

Any dental practitioner who does not contact AHPRA before close of business on **3 January 2012** must be removed from the national Register of Dental Practitioners (the deadline to renew has been extended in line with AHPRA policy, as the due date falls on a weekend, followed by a public holiday.) The registration of any dental practitioner who does not apply in time will lapse and they will not be able to practise in Australia as a dental practitioner until a new application has been approved.

Under the National Law, neither the Board nor AHPRA have any discretion about this. Dental practitioners who miss the **3 January 2012** deadline have four weeks after this date to make a fast-track application for registration if they wish to keep working. This is a new application for registration and will incur an application fee, a registration fee and a fast-track application fee. These dental practitioners should note that they are not able to practise until their fast-track registration application is approved.

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 2011 and we look forward to working together in 2012.

John Lockwood
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
28 December 2011