

Authority

This registration standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 20 December 2011 under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

Summary

This registration standard sets out the requirements of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) to register dental practitioners who are not qualified for general registration to enable them to undertake postgraduate training or supervised practice, under section 66 of the National Law, in relation to limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice (limited registration – training/supervised practice).

This registration standard sets out both the initial and ongoing requirements of limited registration – training/supervised practice.

The key requirement of limited registration – training/supervised practice is that the Board must be satisfied that the dental practitioner has completed a qualification that is relevant to, and suitable for, postgraduate training or supervised practice. In addition, there are requirements for the specific pathways for registration under limited registration – training/supervised practice, which are set out below.

Scope of application

This standard applies to overseas-trained dental practitioners who are applying for limited registration to enable them to undertake postgraduate training or supervised practice under section 66 of the National Law, or for renewal of limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice under part 7 division 9 of the National Law.

Pathways for limited registration – training/supervised practice

There are two different purposes of limited practice under limited registration – training/supervised practice:

1. **Supervised practice** – which for dental practitioners is practising only under supervision and either:
 - a) in an employment relationship with an appropriate public sector program, **or**
 - b) enrolment in one or more of the following for the purpose of gaining registration in Australia:
 - i) an Australian Dental Council (ADC) clinical examination

- ii) a clinical training or assessment program in preparation for an ADC clinical examination, or
- iii) another examination required by the Board for registration under section 53(c) of the National Law.

2. **Postgraduate training** – enrolment in an approved postgraduate program of study.

Requirements

The requirements of the Board for registration in limited registration – training/supervised practice are:

1. Compliance with the requirements of section 65 of the National Law – ‘Eligibility for limited registration’.
2. An overseas professional entry-level dental qualification which is relevant to, and suitable for, postgraduate training or supervised practice. These qualifications will be:
 - a) for dentists, a professional entry-level dental qualification from the ADC approved list, **or**
 - b) for all other dental practitioners (including dentists with a professional entry-level dental qualification from institutions not on the ADC approved list), a qualification which is of equivalent duration to an Australian graduate in the division of the Register of Dental Practitioners for which registration is being sought. The Board will apply the following minimum requirements:
 - > Dentist – four years full-time.
 - > Dental prosthetist – three years full-time including dental technician course.
 - > Oral health therapist – bachelor degree three years full-time.
 - > Dental therapist and dental hygienist – two years full-time or dual-qualified three years full-time.
3. Practice only in accordance with the Board’s *Guidelines on supervision* and comply with the planning or supervision requirements (as set out in the Board’s *Guidelines on supervision*), if required.
4. Compliance with the relevant registration standards, codes and guidelines of the Board.
5. Provide evidence of current registration to practise and recency of clinical practice in accordance with the Board’s guidelines for limited registration – training/supervised practice.
6. For dental practitioners in an employment relationship with an appropriate public sector program or enrolled

in an approved postgraduate program of study, a written position description, with verification from the employer or education provider of the supervised practice or postgraduate training position (inclusive of the details of practice which the limited registrant will undertake), which is approved by the Board (the approved position description).

7. A limited registrant is not able to undertake private practice.

Length of registration period

For dental practitioners in an employment relationship with an appropriate public sector program or enrolled in an approved postgraduate program of study, the limited registration – training/supervised practice is inextricably linked to the employment of the dental practitioner in a supervised practice position or active participation and enrolment in the approved program of study. In accordance with section 72 of the National Law, the Board will publish the limited registration period on its website. Where the approved employment position or active participation and enrolment ceases or is terminated, the limited registration – training/supervised practice will end after 30 days.

Ability to renew limited registration – training/supervised practice

Limited registration, as set out in section 72 of the National Law, must be renewed annually and can be renewed a maximum of three times, except as otherwise indicated in the Board's guidelines for limited registration – training/supervised practice. After this time, a new application for limited registration can be made and will need to meet the requirements of this registration standard, and any other registration requirements as set by the Board at that time.

Board's ability to refuse to renew limited registration – training/supervised practice

The Board may refuse to renew the limited registration – training/supervised practice for any of the following reasons:

- a) The registrant's appropriate public sector program employment or active participation and enrolment in the approved postgraduate program of study ceases or is terminated.
- b) For dental practitioners in an employment relationship with an appropriate public sector program or enrolled in an approved postgraduate program of study, the registrant has not complied or practised in accordance with the approved position description.

- c) The requirements of the Board's *Guidelines on supervision* have not been complied with.
- d) The registrant cannot demonstrate compliance with all of the terms, conditions or requirements on the limited registration – training/supervised practice.
- e) Unsatisfactory professional performance in the appropriate public sector program employment position has been demonstrated.
- f) The registrant has not met all of the other requirements of the National Law.

Non-compliance with registration standards

A breach of any of the requirements of this registration standard or any of the Board's registration standards may be a basis to consider the breach 'unprofessional conduct' or 'unsatisfactory professional performance' of the dental practitioner, in accordance with the National Law.

Purpose of registration and notation on the Register of Dental Practitioners

Registration in limited registration – training/supervised practice is granted for a particular purpose and for a limited time. For dental practitioners in an employment relationship with an appropriate public sector program or enrolled in an approved postgraduate program of study, registration is granted in accordance with the approved position description. The terms of the limited registration will be notated on the Register of Dental Practitioners and any practice outside those terms **is not permitted**.

The type of notation that will appear on the public register will be, for example:

Limited registration for <postgraduate training/supervised practice> is granted under section 66 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law from <date> to <date> for the purpose of <name of postgraduate training course/name of examination/details of the Public Sector Dental Workforce Scheme work and supervision arrangements> at <location/s>. Private practice and practice outside these parameters is not permitted.

In addition to the requirements of this registration standard, the Board may grant limited registration for training/supervised practice, in accordance with section 83 of the National Law, subject to any conditions the Board considers necessary or desirable in the circumstances.

Applications for variation in changed circumstances

If a registrant in the limited registration – training/supervised practice category has a **significant change**

in circumstances, such as a change in the employment position or postgraduate program of study, they must submit a new application for limited registration. However, registrants can apply to the Board for a variation if there is a minor change to their circumstances, such as a change in their supervisor or a change in the approved position description, or an extension of the registration period if granted for **less than** 12 months.

Definitions

ADC approved list

The list of overseas institutions that are approved by the ADC. These are published on the ADC website at: www.adc.org.au.

ADC examinations pathway

The process conducted by the ADC for the assessment and examination for registration purposes in Australia of practitioners with overseas qualifications. It includes both written and clinical examinations, as described on its website at: www.adc.org.au.

ADC clinical examination

The clinical examination component of the ADC examinations pathway. The general objective of the ADC clinical examination is to assess the clinical competence of the candidate in terms of dental knowledge, clinical skills and professional attitude for the safe and effective clinical practice of dentistry in the Australian community.

Appropriate public sector program

An employment program which is offered by a state or territory health department, or a facility directly funded by a state or territory health department. Further details of the requirements of these programs are described in Board guidelines that relate to limited registration – training/supervised practice.

Approved position description

For dental practitioners in an employment relationship with an appropriate public sector program or actively enrolled in an approved postgraduate program of study, a written position description inclusive of the details of practice which the limited registrant will undertake in the limited registration – training/supervised practice role, verified by the employer or the education provider and approved by the Board at the time of granting limited registration. The approved position description may be reviewed by the Board during the period of limited registration.

Approved postgraduate program of study

A postgraduate program of study which is included in the Board's *Approved programs of study* list under 'Qualifications which lead to specialist registration for dentists' or another postgraduate training program approved by the Board for the purpose of the category

of limited registration and as published on the Board's website at www.dentalboard.gov.au.

Postgraduate training

For the purposes of this standard, this means post-initial education or training (i.e. the training undertaken after a practitioner's initial professional entry-level education or training). The term is defined because of the advent of graduate entry programs for professional entry-level qualifications.

References

Dental Board of Australia. *Guidelines for limited registration standards*

Review

The Board will review this registration standard every three years.

