



Communiqué

Thirty second meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 27 July 2012

The Dental Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law* (National Law) as in force in each state and territory. This communiqué highlights key issues from the Dental Board meeting held in July 2012. The Dental Board meeting was also attended by the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the New Zealand Dental Council (DCNZ).

Memorandum of Understanding - Dental Board of Australia and the Dental Council of New Zealand

The Chair and the CEO of the DCNZ attended the Dental Board meeting and also met with representatives of the Board and AHPRA to discuss relevant issues. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 27 July 2012 between the DCNZ and the Dental Board which will provide a platform for improved communication and liaison between the two bodies in all areas of registration and regulation.

There was a written and verbal report provided by the DCNZ, in which Dr Mark Goodhew thanked the Board for their invitation and appreciated the opportunity for both himself and Marie Warner to meet key AHPRA staff. In addition the following issues were discussed with the Dental Board:

- a. matters with respect to the specialty of oral surgery, oral health therapists;
- b. the registration category of 'orthodontic auxiliary practice' (particularly the advice that these registrants practice under the direct supervision of a dentist); and
- c. the relationship between the DCNZ and the ADC in relation to accreditation processes and accreditation standards and noted the importance for DCNZ to have direct links to the Dental Board and the ADC.

Guidelines on supervision for dental practitioners

The Dental Board considered the feedback from the recent consultation undertaken with respect to the new *Guidelines on supervision for dental practitioners* (the Guidelines), which were based on template guidelines developed by National Board services for use by all National Boards.

The Dental Board approved a finalised version of the Guidelines which will replace the Dental Board's current document for limited registrants *Guidelines on Supervision – Roles and Responsibilities of the supervisor and requirements of a supervision plan and supervision report*. The new Guidelines will be published on the Dental Board's website at: www.dentalboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/Policies-Codes-Guidelines.aspx

The Dental Board would like to thank all respondents to the Dental Board's consultation process on the Guidelines.

Review of the scope of practice registration standard

The Dental Board's Scope of Practice Review Committee met for the first time in July 2012 and considered and made recommendations to the Board with respect to the review of the *Scope of Practice Registration Standard*, which will be reviewed in the next 12 months and this process will include both targeted key stakeholder and public consultation.

Review of registration standards, guidelines and codes

One of the Dental Board's functions under the National Law is to develop or approve standards, codes and guidelines for the dental profession. The Dental Board must consult widely about any standards, codes or guidelines that it develops. Registration standards are developed by the Dental Board and must be approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council). The Dental Board develops and approves codes and guidelines.

The Dental Board developed a range of registration standards before the start of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme in 2010, which were approved by the Ministerial Council. Consistent with their responsibilities under the National Law, all National Boards developed registration standards for:

1. The requirements for **professional indemnity insurance**
2. Matters to be considered in deciding whether an individual's **criminal history** is relevant to the practice of medicine
3. Requirements for **continuing professional development**
4. Requirements about the **English language skills** necessary for an applicant for registration to be suitable for registration
5. Requirements in relation to the nature, extent, period and **recency** of any previous practice by applicants for registration.

Additionally, the Dental Board developed and had approved registration standards for:

1. Scope of Practice
2. Specialist registration
3. Endorsement in relation to conscious sedation.

All these registration standards took effect on 1 July 2010 and are due for review at least every three years.

The Dental Board is also due to review the:

1. Code of Conduct
2. Guidelines for mandatory notifications
3. Guidelines for advertising of regulated health services
4. Guidelines on continuing professional development
5. Guidelines on dental records
6. Guidelines on infection control.

Over the next few months, all National Boards will be starting a process to review their registration standards and the codes and guidelines that are due for review. The reviews will draw on the best available evidence and address issues that have been identified with the registration standards and the codes and guidelines in the first three years after implementation. A plan is being developed to try and minimise the impact on stakeholders of multiple consultation processes, particularly for stakeholders common across professions.

Fact sheet – Botulinum Toxin

The Dental Board continues to receive requests for further information or clarification with respect to the Dental Board's Interim Policy - Botulinum toxin. The Dental Board has therefore agreed to develop a further fact sheet to clarify the use of botulinum toxin by dental practitioners. As previously advised, the Dental Board supports the use of botulinum toxin by registered dentists with education, training and competence for the treatment of Temporomandibular joint disorder/dysfunction. The fact sheet will be available on the Dental Board's website at: www.dentalboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/FAQ.aspx

Board newsletter

The Dental Board noted the excellent response to its second newsletter, released in June 2012. The Dental Board noted that the newsletter is an important document for dental practitioners to read to ensure they keep abreast of the current regulatory requirements of the profession. The Dental Board would like to thank those dental practitioners who took time to read the newsletter, which can be found at: www.dentalboard.gov.au/News/Newsletters.aspx

Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Dental Council

The Dental Board noted the recent retirement of Dr Robert Broadbent from the position of CEO of the ADC and acknowledged and thank him for his work at the ADC and the Dental Board wished him well in his retirement.

The Dental Board also noted the appointment of Ms Lyn LeBlanc as incoming CEO of the ADC, and that she brings to the ADC a wealth of prior experience. The Dental Board looks forward to developing an effective working relationship with Ms LeBlanc.

John Lockwood
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
15 August 2012