



Communiqué

Thirty third meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 24 August 2012

The Dental Board of Australia (the Dental 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 August 2012.

The members of the Dental Board acknowledged that this was the last meeting of the inaugural members of the Dental Board of Australia and noted the significant workload which the Board has undertaken since it first met in September 2009. The Dental Board members in particular acknowledged and thanked the significant involvement and valued contribution over the past three years of the four members that will not be continuing on the Board. These members are:

- Dr Carmelo Bonanno
- Mr Peter Martin
- Dr John Owen AM, and
- Mrs Myra Pincott AO.

From 31 August 2012 there will be four new members of the Dental Board as appointed by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC), the new members are:

- Winthrop Professor Paul Abbott - Appointed as a practitioner member (dentist) from Western Australia
- Dr Murray Thomas - Appointed as a practitioner member (dentist) from the Australian Capital Territory
- Ms Alison von Bibra - Appointed as a community member
- Ms Alison Faigniez - Appointed as a community member.

The continuing members of the Dental Board look forward to working with the newly appointed members.

Release of the HWA Report

On 17 August 2012, the Dental Board welcomed the public release of a report by Health Workforce Australia (HWA) on its review of roles and scope of practice of dental therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists (www.dentalboard.gov.au/News/2012-08-17-media-release.aspx)

A copy of the HWA report can be found at: www.hwa.gov.au/sites/uploads/hwa-oral-health-review-report-201208.pdf

Review of the scope of practice registration standard

The Dental Board's Scope of Practice Review Committee met for the second time in August 2012 and considered and made recommendations to the Board with respect to the review of the *Scope of practice registration standard*. The Board agreed to release a discussion paper to key national organisations, including those representing the divisions on the Board's Register, in the upcoming weeks. This is to enable feedback on the key matters of the standard to be reviewed.

Expert Reference Group – Specialist

The Dental Board has agreed to the establishment of an Expert Reference Group – Specialist (ERGS) to provide advice to the Board across all specialist areas and to provide expertise in considering the upcoming review of the Specialist Registration Standard. The Dental Board has called for nominations from all relevant specialist groups.

Recency of Practice and Return to Practice Working Group

The Dental Board's Recency of Practice and Return to Practice Working Group met in August and is continuing its work in establishing a national return to work/practice process for dental practitioners.

The Working Group has written to relevant organisations, requesting expression of interest in relation to the development and/or administration of competency assessments for one or more types of dental practitioners.

Fact sheet – Botulinum Toxin

As advised in August 2012, 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 Board supports the use of botulinum toxin dermal fillers by registered dentists with education, training and competence for the treatment of Temporomandibular joint disorder/dysfunction. The fact sheet is available on the Board's website at:

www.dentalboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/FAQ.aspx

Fact sheet – Use of title

The Dental Board agreed to the development and release of a fact sheet for dental practitioners with respect to the use of specialist and other titles.

John Lockwood AM
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
3 September 2012