



## Communiqué

### Thirty fourth meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 14 September 2012

The Dental Board of Australia (the Dental Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (National Law). This communiqué highlights key issues from the Dental Board meeting held in September 2012.

The September 2012 meeting of the Dental Board was held to coincide with the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme 2012 Combined Meeting. The Chairs of the Dental Board's Registration and Notification Committees also attended the Board meeting and conference proceedings.

The continuing members of the Dental Board welcomed the newly appointed members at the September 2012 meeting.

#### Acupuncture recognition for dental practitioners

The Dental Board has developed and agreed to the release of a policy which sets out the requirements and process for dental practitioners wishing to practice acupuncture and use the title *acupuncturist*. The Dental Board at this time has determined not to establish an endorsement pathway for acupuncture but has reached an agreement with the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia that any dental practitioner wishing to practise acupuncture and seeking the use of the title *acupuncturist* should apply to the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia as an *acupuncturist*. The Dental Board policy will be available on the website shortly.

#### Review of accreditation functions

The National Law requires National Boards to review the arrangements for the exercise of the accreditation functions no later than 30 June 2013. These arrangements have been in place since before the commencement of the National Law and involve the appointment of the Australian Dental Council to join the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme on 1 July 2010. The Dental Board is currently undertaking the review of accreditation functions, as are the other nine National Boards that entered the National Scheme in 2010, and further information will be available in the coming months.

#### Dental Board website

The Dental Board will shortly make available on its website a *Fact Sheet: Obligations of dental practitioners regarding use of title* for dental practitioners with respect to the use of specialist and other titles. The National Law requires AHPRA and the Dental Board to enter into a Health Profession Agreement (HPA). The HPA for 2012/2013 will shortly be available on the Dental Board website.

The Dental Board continues to encourage all dental practitioners to regularly check the Dental Board's website at [www.dentalboard.gov.au](http://www.dentalboard.gov.au) for information and updates relating to the dental profession.

### Registration renewal

The Dental Board would like to remind all dental practitioners that their registration is due for renewal by **30 November 2012**. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) will email reminders to renew to those registrants for which they hold a current email address. Dental practitioners should check that their contact email details are up to date.

The Dental Board 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 Dental Board to renew your registration after it has lapsed without a new application.

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