



Communiqué

Thirty sixth meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 16 November 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 November 2012.

Oral Surgery Panel

The Dental Board has agreed to an Oral Surgery Panel to provide advice to the Board on the speciality of oral surgery, including registration and scope of practice.

Recency of Practice and Return to Practice Working Group

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

Review of the *Scope of practice registration standard*

The Dental Board's Scope of Practice Review Committee met again in November and continues to consider matters relating to the review of the *Scope of practice registration standard*. Public consultation on the standard will occur in early 2013.

Review of accreditation functions

The National Law requires National Boards to review the arrangements for the exercise of its accreditation functions no later than 30 June 2013. These arrangements have been in place since before the commencement of the National Law when the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council appointed the Australian Dental Council the accreditation authority for dental practitioners under the National Scheme from 1 July 2010 for three years.

The Dental Board is currently undertaking the review of the Board's accreditation functions, as are the other nine National Boards that entered the National Scheme in 2010. The Dental Board has released a public consultation paper on its website at www.dentalboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx to allow feedback from both practitioners and the public.

Review of standards, guidelines and codes

The Dental Board and the other National Boards that have been in the National Scheme since 2010 have begun preparations for reviewing the registration standards, guidelines and codes that were developed before the scheme commenced.

The National Boards that joined the National Scheme in 2012 will also be participating in the public consultations on common registration standards, codes and guidelines.

Practitioners, members of the public and other stakeholders will be able to provide feedback during the public consultation phases of the reviews. Where registration standards, guidelines and codes are common to all, or most, of the National Boards, the consultation phase will be coordinated across National Boards to make providing feedback easier.

Consultation is expected to occur over several stages, starting in 2013. The consultations are being staged (rather than happening simultaneously) to give stakeholders a better opportunity to provide

feedback. Information about the reviews will be included in forthcoming communiqués and on the website as they commence.

Work on the reviews will include public consultation on a proposed social media policy. Until then, the Board's *Code of conduct* and *Guidelines for advertising of regulated health services* provide guidance about appropriate use of social media and online behaviour. Practitioners are reminded that they have made a declaration on renewal that they will comply with the Board's registration standards, codes and guidelines.

Dental Board website update

The Dental Board has published a *Fact sheet: Obligations of dental practitioners regarding use of title* for dental practitioners with respect to the use of specialist and other titles on its website at www.dentalboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/FAQ.aspx.

The Dental Board continues to encourage all dental practitioners to regularly check the Dental Board's website at www.dentalboard.gov.au for information and updates relating to the dental profession.

Annual Report

The National Boards and AHPRA Annual Report was published on 1 November 2012 and has been tabled in the Parliaments of South Australia and Victoria. The Annual Report is available www.dentalboard.gov.au/News/2012-11-01-annual-report.aspx.

Registration renewal

The Dental Board would like to remind all dental practitioners that their registration is due for renewal by **30 November 2012**. A high percentage of dental practitioners have already renewed their registration and the majority have done so online. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) will email reminders to those registrants (for which they hold a current email address) who have yet to renew.

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**.

The Board encourages all dental practitioners to provide AHPRA with a current email contact address by updating their contact details through online services. This will enable AHPRA to contact dental practitioners about important registration information and the National Board to contact dental practitioners with important updates for the profession.

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Chair, Dental Board of Australia
27 November 2012