



Communiqué

Thirty eighth meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 22 February 2013

The Dental Board of Australia (the National 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 February 2013.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

Continuing professional development (CPD) cycle ends 30 June 2013

The National Board reminds all dental practitioners that, in accordance with the CPD registration standard, all dental practitioners must complete a minimum of 60 hours of CPD activities over three years. The current CPD cycle **ends on 30 June 2013** (it commenced on 1 July 2010). The National Board encourages all professional associations/groups to remind dental practitioners of this important date.

Review of accreditation functions

The National Law requires all boards in the National Scheme to review its accreditation arrangements no later than 30 June 2013. The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council appointed the Australian Dental Council as the accreditation authority for dental practitioners under the National Scheme from 1 July 2010 for three years.

The National Board is currently undertaking the review of the Board's accreditation functions. The Board considered the feedback received to the public consultation, which was closed late in 2012, on the review of accreditation functions.

The National Board will further consult with the Australian Dental Council and provide updates on the review in future communiqués.

Review of standards, guidelines and codes

The National Board continues to review the registration standards, guidelines and codes that were developed before the National Scheme commenced. A very important part of this process is consultation.

The National Board undertakes two phases of consultation; preliminary and public. During preliminary consultation the Board releases the paper to key stakeholders, which allows it to 'road test' the feasibility of proposed changes as well as consider feedback that may be incorporated for the following phase. Public consultations are widely communicated in the National Board's communiqués and website, and open to everyone.

At the February meeting, along with the other National Boards, the National Board agreed to release a number of registration standards, codes and guidelines for consultation, as follows.

Public consultation:

- *Guideline for advertising;*
- *Code of conduct;*
- *Mandatory notification guidelines;* and
- *draft Social media policy.*

The Board invites all interested practitioners, members of the community and other stakeholders to provide feedback to the consultations.

For details on when these consultations will open, please check the National Board's website and future communiqués.

Preliminary consultation:

- *English language skills registration standard;* and
- *Criminal history registration standards.*

These consultations will be released for public consultation later in the year, and will be widely communicated.

In addition to the above codes, guidelines and standards, the National Board must also review its Board specific registration standards, codes and guidelines (approved in 2010). The consultation with respect to these National Board specific registration standards, codes and guidelines will commence with preliminary consultation in April 2013 and public consultation later in the year.

Review of the scope of practice registration standard

The National Board has finalised its revised draft of the *Scope of practice registration standard* and developed a draft *Scope of practice guideline*, which will be released for preliminary consultation in March 2013.

These documents address the issues that have been raised by key stakeholders and the public since the Standard was first approved. The National Board's aim in reviewing the standard and creating a guideline was to provide clarity and certainty for both the public and dental practitioners about the scope of practice for the dental practitioner divisions.

National conference

The National Board will hold its inaugural national conference in May 2013. This will be the first time that members of the state and territory committees of the Dental Board will have the opportunity to meet in one place, together with participants from the Dental Council of New South Wales and senior staff from AHPRA and the Health Professional Council Authority. The meeting aims to reflect on the past and provide a unique insight into the needs and opportunities to continue to build the working relationships between these bodies.

State and territory committees of the National Board

The National Board has called for nominations and expressions of interest to fill vacancies in its state and territory committees. The advertisement can be found on the website at www.dentalboard.gov.au/About-the-Board/Vacancies.aspx.

Applications close on **Monday 4 March 2013** and applicants will be advised of the outcome in late May.

A selection advisory panel has been established to review applications and make recommendations to the National Board.

National Board website

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

Updating contact details

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.

Dental Board's next meeting

The National Board has agreed that the next meeting will be held in Melbourne on 3 April 2013 in order to coincide with the Australian Dental Congress.

John Lockwood AM
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
28 February 2013