



## Communiqué

### Thirty ninth meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 3 April 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's March meeting. The meeting was held on 3 April 2013 in Melbourne, to coincide with a number of Board members attending the Australian Dental Association Congress, which included members presenting and engaging in the ADA Workforce Workshop – *What is the future for graduate dentists?*

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

#### **Continuing professional development (CPD) cycle ends 30 June 2013**

The National Board reminds all dental practitioners that, consistent 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 began on 1 July 2010). The National Board encourages all professional associations/groups to remind dental practitioners of the Board's requirement to meet CPD obligations by this date.

#### **Review of accreditation functions**

As advised in previous communiqués, the National Board is currently reviewing the Board's accreditation functions. The Board has considered the feedback received to the public consultation on the review of accreditation functions, which was closed late in 2012.

Members of the National Board's Accreditation Review Committee recently met with representatives from the Australian Dental Council to discuss the review. The National Board will finalise its decision about the review of accreditation functions in the weeks ahead and will keep stakeholders informed of its decision.

#### **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.

The consultation about the Dental Board's specific registration standards, codes and guidelines will begin with preliminary consultation May 2013 and public consultation later in the year.

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

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

The Board is now consulting on a proposed draft social media policy and on proposed revisions to the guidelines on advertising and mandatory reporting. The consultation is open until 30 May 2013. All feedback is welcome.

### **Advertising**

The National Board has established with AHPRA a taskforce to review the current activity on dental advertising which is not compliant with the requirements of the National Law and Advertising Guidelines. This review will underpin the future approach of the National Board to manage advertising issues associated with dental practitioners.

The National Board reminds all dental practitioners that they are responsible for the content of all advertising material associated with the provision of their goods/service, regardless of the type of media used to advertise and should ensure that advertising is compliant with the requirements of the National Law and Advertising Guidelines.

### **Review of the scope of practice registration standard**

The preliminary consultation period for the National Board's revised draft of the *Scope of practice registration standard* and draft *Scope of practice guideline*, has now closed. The National Board thanks all stakeholders for their submissions and feedback.

The National Board will consider all submissions made to the preliminary consultation document. The draft of the *Scope of practice registration standard* and draft *Scope of practice guideline* will be released for public consultation during May.

### **National conference**

The National Board will hold its inaugural national conference in May 2013. This will be the first time that members of the National Board and state and territory committees of the National 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 Councils Authority. The meeting aims to reflect on the last three years of national regulation, plan for future regulatory challenges 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**

Applications have now closed for nominations and expressions of interest to fill positions on the National Board's state and territory committees. The National Board would like to thank all applicants for their desire to contribute to the work of the National Board.

A selection advisory panel has been established to review applications and make recommendations to the National Board. Applicants will be advised of the outcome in late May 2013.

### **National Board website**

The National Board continues to encourage all dental practitioners to regularly check the website at [www.dentalboard.gov.au](http://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.

John Lockwood AM  
Chair, Dental Board of Australia  
15 April 2013