



Communiqué

Forty first meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 24 May 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 National Board's May meeting.

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.

The National Board also reminds dental practitioners that it is their responsibility to maintain their own records detailing their CPD activities for audit purposes. Dental practitioners may be asked to produce evidence of their CPD activities when requested to do so by the National Board. The National Board's CPD Registration Standard <http://www.dentalboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx> and Guidelines <http://www.dentalboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines.aspx> provide guidance for dental practitioners regarding the extent of records that should be maintained.

Compliance with other regulatory requirements

The National Board reminds all dental practitioners of the need to comply with all relevant regulatory requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, those established under state and territory drugs and poisons legislation, radiology legislation and the requirements of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

The drugs and poisons legislation sets out the regulatory mechanisms relevant to a dental practitioners' capacity to possess, prescribe/supply and administer medications in Australia. In accordance with the National Board's Code of Conduct, the Board expects all dental practitioners to make the care of their patient their first concern and to make sure they provide safe care to patients.

Dentists' administration, supply and prescription of all medications should be consistent with providing safe dental care and must follow appropriate legislation and guidelines for the use and administration of medications. This should include reference to the National Prescribing Service quality use of medicines (www.nps.org.au).

Regarding **tooth whitening/bleaching**, the National Board has developed an Interim Policy which states:

Teeth whitening/bleaching, is an irreversible procedure on the human teeth and any tooth whitening/bleaching products containing more than 6% concentration of the active whitening/bleaching agent, should only be used by a registered dental practitioner with education, training and competence in teeth whitening/bleaching.

The Board has recently been advised by the ACCC that the position established by the ACCC in March 2012 i.e. *that tooth whitening products of the above concentrations were inherently unsafe for self-administered home use and do not comply with the existing provisions of the Poisons Standard for a preparation intended to be taken into the mouth and can only be used/applied by dental practitioners* has not changed.

The National Board supports the use of **Botulinum toxin** by registered dentists with education, training and competence for the treatment of Temporomandibular joint disorder/dysfunction. This is the full

extent of the National Board's support for the use of Botulinum toxin in dental practice. The National Board has developed a fact sheet (published in July 2012) which is available on its website at: www.dentalboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/FAQ.aspx

Review of accreditation functions

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

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 invites all interested practitioners, members of the community and other stakeholders to provide feedback to the consultations published on the National Board's website.

The National Board is currently consulting on a proposed revised *Scope of practice registration standard* and draft guidelines. The consultation is open until **19 June 2013**.

The consultation on the proposed draft social media policy, code of conduct and on proposed revisions to the guidelines on advertising and mandatory reporting, ended on 30 May 2013.

Advertising

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. All practitioners should ensure that their advertising is compliant with the requirements of the National Law and *Advertising guidelines*.

National conference

The National Board held its inaugural national conference in May 2013. The feedback received from participants was positive and showed that the conference provided opportunities to continue to build relationships between members of the National Board and its state and territory committees, the Dental Council of New South Wales and senior staff from AHPRA and the Health Professional Councils Authority.

State and territory committees of the National Board

The National Board would like to thank all applicants for their desire to contribute to the work of the National Board. The National Board has considered the recommendations made by the selection advisory panel and applicants will be advised of the outcome shortly.

Community Reference Group

The Community Reference Group is having its first meeting in Melbourne this week, which is another exciting first for the National Scheme. Made up of members from the community, all of them new to the Scheme, the CRG will be able to advise AHPRA and the National Boards on how to engage better with communities, particularly with non-practitioners

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 National 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
6 June 2013