



## Communiqué

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### 48<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 13 December 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 (the National Law).

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the National Board's December 2013 meeting.

#### Planning for 2014

The National Board held a planning session the day prior to its 48th meeting to review and consider its priorities for the upcoming year.

This included the ongoing review of all the National Board's policies and guidelines. This will involve consultation with the profession and other stakeholders throughout the coming year.

#### Dental specialties

The National Board has commenced a substantial body of work on dental specialties.

There is currently no comprehensive and consistently documented information about the 'competencies' of the specialties that could be used, for example in evaluating applications for specialist registration.

The purpose of documenting the competencies for each specialty is to clarify the minimum entry level standard of education and training required for dental specialists who want to register to practise in Australia and New Zealand.

An update on the project will be released shortly on our website.

#### Codes, guidelines and policies for practitioners

The National Board will be publishing revised and new codes, guidelines and policies in 2014.

The first lot of documents will be published in February. They are the:

- revised *Advertising guidelines*
- *Social media policy*
- revised *Mandatory reporting guidelines*, and
- revised *Code of conduct*.

These guidelines, policy and code will come in to effect in March 2014, and all registered health practitioners will need to meet these new codes, guidelines and policies.

Additional information will also be published in February explaining the similarities and differences between the current and revised documents.

The National Board consulted widely this year on the draft versions of these documents (and continues to consult on other important documents, see the *Consultations* page on the National Board website).

Much work has also gone in to making sure that the format and language used in the documents meet plain language requirements to make it easier to access and understand the important information in them. This month we are running a series of focus groups that will test the way the documents are presented, so that we can choose a design that supports ease of reading and understanding.

More information about the revised codes, guidelines and policies will be published on the AHPRA and National Boards' websites in February.

### Extension of scope program

The National Board has reviewed and approved with conditions the Graduate Certificate in Dental Therapy – Advanced Clinical Practice offered to registered dental therapists and oral health therapists by the University of Melbourne as an extension of scope program.

The extension of scope programs, which have been supported and/or approved by the National Board for dental therapists and oral health therapists to provide dental therapy in various modalities to adults of all ages, are:

- the Dental Health Services Victoria (2007/8) bridging program to facilitate the provision of oral health care to adult patients
- unit ORH3ACP Advanced Clinical Practice as part of the Bachelor of Oral Health Science program at La Trobe University from 2010 onwards, and
- Graduate Certificate in Dental Therapy – Advanced Clinical Practice program at University of Melbourne from 2013 onwards.

As part of the review of the Board's *Scope of practice registration standard* the Board will be formalising the process for recognition of all extension to scope programs. Further information will be available in early 2014.

### Audit

An audit specific page has been published on our website under the [Registration](#) tab to keep you informed and provide you with the information and tools to help you if you are selected for audit in 2014. Additional information will be added progressively.

### Registration renewal

The Board is pleased to advise that more than 90 per cent of dental practitioners submitted their application for renewal of registration to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) on time and more than 90 per cent applied online. These dental practitioners have either been registered to practise until 30 November 2013 or their application is still in assessment.

Dental practitioners who are awaiting confirmation that their registration has been renewed are still able to practise while their application is assessed. Their name remains listed on the national Register of Dental Practitioners.

Renewal of registration is now in the late period and applications received by AHPRA during December incur an additional late payment fee. Practitioners who do not apply to renew their registration by 31 December 2013 will have lapsed registration. They will be removed from the [national register of practitioners](#) and will not be able to practise dentistry in Australia until a new application has been approved.

A fast track re-registration process will be available during January 2014 to facilitate restoration to the register.

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.**

### Updating contact details

To check that your contact details registered with AHPRA are up to date, go to the 'Your Account' link at the top right of the Board website, use your unique contact number (User ID) and follow the prompts.

Your User ID is not your registration number. If you do not have your User ID, complete an online enquiry form, selecting 'User ID' as the category of enquiry or phone 1300 419 495.

Email accounts should be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

John Lockwood AM  
**Chair, Dental Board of Australia**  
30 December 2013