



Communiqué

51st meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 2 May 2014

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 April 2014 meeting.

Advertising guidelines: update

The National Board has acted on feedback received about the *Guidelines for advertising regulated health services (Advertising guidelines)* that were released in March and has published an update. These are published under [Codes and guidelines](#) on the National Board's website.

Anyone who advertises a regulated health service must meet the requirements of the National Law. This includes registered health practitioners, individuals who are not health practitioners and businesses.

No requirements have been added from the previous version.

The updated Advertising guidelines were edited to make them clearer, particularly about that:

- under the National Law, testimonials are not allowed when advertising a regulated health service
- the obligations of the National Law about advertising only apply when a regulated health service is being advertised, and
- the National Law is not intended to stop members of the community and patients from discussing their experiences online or in person.

The National Board would like to thank everyone who provided feedback on the guidelines. Whenever possible, this feedback was taken in to account and used to update the guidelines.

Much of the feedback that was received was about the ban on using testimonials in advertising a regulated health service. This is a requirement of the National Law, which is something National Boards are required to implement. The [Terms of reference](#) for a scheduled review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the scheme regulating registered health practitioners in Australia) include a point relating to advertising, and interested members of the public and health practitioners are encouraged to provide feedback about the legislation. More information is available on from the [AHMAC website](#).

Consultation on registration standards and guidelines

The National Board has released a consultation paper on the review of:

- Registration standards
- Professional indemnity insurance
- Continuing professional development
- Recency of practice
- Endorsement for conscious sedation
- Specialist Guidelines
- Continuing professional development.

This stage of consultation is open to everyone. We encourage all interested practitioners, members of the community and other stakeholders to have input. The consultation paper can be found on our website under the [News](#) tab.

Dental practitioner audit

An audit page has been published on our website under the [Registration](#) tab to keep practitioners informed and provide information and tools to help practitioners who are selected for audit in 2014. Under the National Law, AHPRA can request (on behalf of the Dental Board) you to provide evidence that you meet the standards, as declared in your previous annual statement.

Your annual statement is made when you apply to renew your registration. Practitioners are required to declare that these statements are 'true and correct'.

The annual statement also includes statements about whether:

- you have met the recency of practice requirements stated in the Board's registration standard
- you have met the Board's continuing professional development (CPD) requirements as set out in the Board's CPD registration standard during the previous registration period
- you have practised in accordance with the requirements of the Board's Professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements registration standard, and whether you commit to practise in accordance with that registration standard if your registration is renewed, and
- if there was any change in your criminal history during the previous registration period and whether you have any other criminal history that has not been disclosed to AHPRA.

How will I know if I am being audited?

Audits of random samples of dental practitioners will occur periodically throughout the coming year. If you are selected for audit, you will receive an audit notice in the mail from AHPRA. It includes a checklist that outlines what supporting documentation is required to demonstrate that you meet the standard(s) being audited.

What is being audited?

Each time you apply to renew your registration, you make a declaration that you have (or have not) met the registration standards for your profession. The audit requires that you provide further information to support your declarations.

Your audit notice letter will identify which standard/standards are being audited. One or more of the following four mandatory registration standards may be audited:

- Criminal history
- English language skills
- Recency of practice, and
- Continuing professional development.

All of these standards are published on the Dental Board's website under the [Registration standard](#) tab.

Newsletter

We will be releasing the latest edition of our newsletter in coming weeks. If you have an email registered with AHPRA then you will receive it directly. It is also published on the Board's website under the *News* tab.

If you wish to receive this, please check your contact details lodged with AHPRA through the [Your Account](#) tab on the top right of the AHPRA website. Email accounts should be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

To check your contact details, go to the Your Account link above, 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 by calling 1300 419 495.

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John Lockwood AM

Chair, Dental Board of Australia

20 May 2014