

Communiqué

54th meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 18 July 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 July 2014 meeting which was held in Perth. The National Board was pleased to meet with the Western Australian registration and notification committee as well as the registrants and stakeholders who attended the scope of practice forum in Perth.

Scope of practice forums: Register your interest

The National Board has released revised [Scope of practice registration standard](#) and new [Guidelines for scope of practice](#), which came into effect on **30 June 2014**. The revised registration standard replaces the previous version of the registration standard.

The National Board is hosting a series of forums for dental practitioners to learn more about the standard and guidelines and how they affect practice (see dates below). If you are interested in attending, please make sure to register your interest via email to dentalboardforums@ahpra.gov.au as places are limited, including your name and contact details as well as which forum you wish to attend.

The [FAQ](#) on the standard and guidelines are being updated with questions that are raised at the forums.

Forums

The National Board held the first forum in Perth on 17 July, followed by Melbourne on 25 July. The remaining forum dates and locations are listed below.

City	Date	Location	Time
Sydney	Thursday 31 July	Rydges World Square, 389 Pitt St, Sydney	4.00pm
Canberra	Friday 1 August	Mercure Canberra, Corner of Ainslie and Limestone Avenue, Braddon	4.00pm
Adelaide	Thursday 7 August	Rydges South Park, 1 South Tce, Adelaide	4.00pm
Hobart	Friday 8 August	The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel, 1 Macquarie Street, Hobart	12.00pm
Darwin	Thursday 14 August	Adina Vibe Waterfront, 7 Kitchener Dve, Darwin	9.30am
Brisbane	Friday 15 August	Adina Apartment Hotel, 15 Ivory Lane, Brisbane	4.00pm

Infection control and blood borne viruses

The National Board would like to remind all dental practitioners of their obligations to meet infection control requirements. Dental practitioners must practise in a way that maintains and enhances public health and safety by ensuring that the risk of the spread of infectious diseases is prevented or minimised. Dental practitioners should read and understand the [Guidelines on infection control](#) which address how dental practitioners can prevent or minimise the risk of the spread of infectious diseases while practising.

All dental practitioners or students must be aware of their infection status for blood borne viruses and comply with the Communicable Diseases Network Australia's (CDNA) [Australian national guidelines for the management of health care workers known to be infected with blood-borne viruses](#) and with the requirements of the Dental Board of Australia's [Guidelines on infection control](#). When they register for the first time, and every year they apply to renew their registration, all dental practitioners must declare that they have met these requirements.

Have your say: National Boards consult on practitioners with blood borne infectious diseases

All 14 National Boards are inviting practitioners, members of the community and other stakeholders to provide feedback on guidelines that will determine how, from a regulatory perspective, health practitioners with blood borne infectious diseases should be managed.

Under the proposed guidelines, registered health practitioners with blood borne infectious diseases must comply with the Communicable Diseases Network of Australia (CDNA) guidelines on this issue to ensure their practice does not compromise patient safety.

The CDNA offers strategic advice to governments and other key bodies on public health actions to minimise the impact of communicable diseases, and their [Australian National Guidelines for the Management of Health Care Workers known to be infected with blood-borne viruses](#) are endorsed by the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council.

The National Boards' proposed guidelines allow health practitioners infected with a blood-borne virus to practise their profession if they comply with the CDNA guidelines. However, they may have to modify their practice. For example, they will not be able to perform certain procedures such as exposure-prone procedures if the CDNA guidelines stop them from doing so.

The current CDNA guidelines define an exposure prone procedure as a procedure where there is a risk of injury to the healthcare worker resulting in exposure of the patient's open tissues to the blood of the worker. These procedures include those where the worker's hands (whether gloved or not) may be in contact with sharp instruments, needle tips or sharp tissues (spicules of bone or teeth) inside a patient's open body cavity, wound or confined anatomical space where the hands or fingertips may not be completely visible at all times.

The National Boards have published a [consultation paper](#) to support the draft guidelines. The consultation is open until 26 September 2014.

Contact details

Please check your contact details lodged with AHPRA through the Your account tab on the top right of the AHPRA website.

To check your contact details, follow the link, 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.

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
29 July 2014