



Communiqué

The 56th meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 26 September 2014. 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 Board's meeting. The Board publishes this communiqué on our website and emails it to a broad range of stakeholders. Please forward it to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

Renewing your registration

Online renewal of registration is now open for general, specialist or non-practising dental practitioners.

About 20,300 dental practitioners who are due to renew their registration with the Board by 30 November can [submit an online application now](#).

Under the National Law, all registered health practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time each year.

A series of reminders to renew your registration will be sent to your registered email address by AHPRA on behalf of the Board. The reminders include a link to online renewal.

Please check your contact details lodged with AHPRA by following the prompts from the [Board](#) or [AHPRA](#) homepage.

The National Board recommends that you ensure communications from AHPRA and the Board are not sent to your email account's junk box.

Victorian man pleads guilty to pretending to be a registered dentist and carrying out restricted dental acts

Victorian man, Mr Adel Abraham, last week pleaded guilty to 12 counts of carrying out dental acts that are restricted by law and one count of pretending to be a registered dentist.

Some dental acts can only legally be performed by those registered in the dental and medical professions and other groups in particular circumstances. These are described in the National Law. Restricted dental acts include those that result in irreversible changes to teeth.

The National Law protects the public by ensuring that only registered health practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified can use [protected titles](#) such as 'dentist'. The law outlines maximum penalties for falsely using protected titles or holding yourself out to be a registered practitioner.

Mr Abraham had been a registered dentist until October 2011 when the Dental Council of NSW cancelled his registration due to previous convictions. Resulting from these convictions, Mr Abraham was on a good behaviour bond when he continued to practise over a six-month period while unregistered, and treated 15 patients over this time.

Convicted of all 12 charges on 18 September at the Magistrates' Court of Victoria, Mr Abraham was ordered to pay \$20,000 plus costs of \$7,829. Mr Abraham had lodged an appeal against the sentence, which will be heard in the County Court at Melbourne on 7 November 2014.

All of Australia's 619,000 registered health practitioners appear on the [national register of practitioners](#). If a person does not appear on the register, they are not registered to practise in a regulated health profession in Australia.

2014/2015 Health Profession Agreement published

The Board and AHPRA have published the [Health Profession Agreement](#) that outlines the partnership between the Board and AHPRA, including the services AHPRA will provide to the Board in 2014/2015.

The guiding principles of the National Law require the National Scheme to operate in a 'transparent, accountable, efficient, effective and fair way', and for registration fees to be reasonable 'having regard to the efficient and effective operation of the scheme'.

One of the fundamental aspects of the National Scheme is that there is no cross-subsidisation between professions. This means that the regulation of the dental profession is entirely paid for by the dental profession's registration fees.

The 2014/15 Health Profession Agreement is published on the [Board's website](#).

National Registration and Accreditation Scheme – 3 year review

Health Ministers have initiated a scheduled review on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The independent consultation paper for the three year review of the National Scheme has been published and considers the National Scheme as a whole, including the work of National Boards, AHPRA, accrediting entities, and the role of governments.

The consultation paper can be accessed [here](#) and is open until 10 October.

The review team expects to make its recommendations early in 2015, which will then be subject to final decisions by all health ministers.

The Board will be actively participating in the consultation and review process, while continuing our existing work to improve our performance across all aspects of our work.

Queensland – new arrangements for handling notifications from 1 July 2014

From **1 July 2014**, the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013* came in to effect in Queensland.

The Office of the Health Ombudsman has been receiving all complaints about Queensland health practitioners since 1 July, and will decide whether to retain the matters or refer them to the National Board to manage.

Complaints that were made to AHPRA or National Boards before 1 July 2014 will generally continue to be managed by AHPRA on behalf of the National Boards. However, under the new law the Office of the Health Ombudsman can request that a matter be referred to them to be managed. If this happens, AHPRA will inform both the notifier and the practitioner who is the subject of the notification.

For information about the Office of the Health Ombudsman please go to www.oho.qld.gov.au or call 133 646 (133 OHO).

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Chair, Dental Board of Australia
9 September 2014