



Communiqué

The 63rd meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Thursday 21 May in the National Office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in Melbourne.

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.

Dental Board of Australia 2nd National Conference

The Board held its second national conference on Friday 22 May and Saturday 23 May 2015 in Melbourne. The conference was attended by National Board members, the Board's registration and notification committee members as well as AHPRA staff from across the country. Members from the Dental Council of New South Wales and staff from the Health Professional Councils Authority (HPCA) also attended.

The conference provided a range of opportunities to discuss the challenges of regulating the dental profession in the 21st century, including the risk environment in which the Board regulates and how best to manage these risks.

It was also an opportunity to consider how best to embed the [regulatory principles](#) to support robust, consistent decision-making.

Dr Marie Bismark set the tone for the conference by discussing a range of issues around ensuring we are capturing the data we need to create a true regulatory risk picture. She also challenged the audience to think about the voices that are not heard from in the area of notifications. Ms Bismark said the complaints system needed to be more accessible to encourage the 'voiceless and preferably unheard' to come forward.

Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Deputy President Heather Lambrick discussed her insights on the inner-workings of a tribunal, including how the process affects notifiers and practitioners.

There were sessions on a range of strategic issues, each with a practical application to build on the work of the Board and AHPRA. This included ensuring profession-specific advice in the notification process.

The Board will now work in partnership with AHPRA to implement a number of outcomes including further work on a notification taxonomy and performance assessment.

Royal Commission into institutional responses to child sex abuse

The Board and AHPRA have been following the [Royal Commission into institutional responses to child sex abuse](#) and its implications for the regulation of health practitioners. The issues raised in the Royal Commission are serious and disturbing.

The Board and AHPRA are committed to learning from the evidence before the Royal Commission and its findings and taking action to make sure our regulatory system is responsive to anyone who has been sexually abused by a registered health practitioner, who comes forward.

If you have a concern about a health practitioner call:

- AHPRA 1300 419 495
- NSW 1800 043 159
- Queensland 133 646 (133 OHO).

Quarterly registration data released

The Board has released its quarterly registration data. You can find the latest report and other statistics on the [Statistics page](#) of our website.

Revised specialist registration application form published

The Board has published a revised specialist registration [form](#) to assist applicants for this type of registration better understand the information that they need to provide with their applications. This particularly applies for applications from overseas-trained specialists. We have also updated the [specialist registration page](#) on our website to consolidate information into one place.

Revised English language skills and criminal history registration standards in effect soon

The Board has published two revised registration standards – the [English language skills registration standard](#) and [criminal history registration standard](#) – and supporting materials to help practitioners understand the new requirements before they come into effect.

Both these standards were developed after a review of the current standards and public consultation. They are approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council.

The Board's website will be updated with the revised registration standards in coming weeks. Both standards come into effect from 1 July 2015.

Are your contact details up to date?

The Board and AHPRA need to send you information at different times of the year related to your registration and the work of the Board. This includes Board newsletters, key policy decisions and registration renewal notices.

To make sure that you can receive this information please check your contact details lodged with AHPRA. You can do this through the [Login icon](#) at the top right of the AHPRA website.

Email accounts need to 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
9 June 2015