



Communiqué

The 66th meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Friday 21 August 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 as well as other important information.

We publish this communiqué on our website and email it to a broad range of stakeholders. We encourage you to distribute it widely to colleagues and interested parties.

Further resources developed to help you meet your infection control obligations

As a registered dental practitioner it is your responsibility to ensure that you comply with the requirements of the Board's [Guidelines on infection control](#). We have developed a [self-audit tool](#) so you can reflect on how well you comply with these requirements in your workplace. Infection prevention and control is integral to clinical care and the way in which it is provided. It is not an additional set of practices.

All the relevant information is now on the one [Infection Control obligations](#) webpage.

Communication from the Dental Council of New South Wales to NSW dental practitioners

On 16 July 2015, the National Board Chair and the president of the Dental Council of NSW (the Council) [wrote](#) to all dental practitioners in Australia reminding them of their obligations to comply with the Board's *Guidelines on infection control*. This was done following action taken against a number of dental practitioners in NSW for serious infection control breaches.

Since this time the Council has received more complaints about dental hygienists, dental prosthetists and dentists about further breaches. The breaches relate to cleaning, sterilisation and storage of instruments. A further two practitioners have been suspended and conditions placed on one practitioner since July.

AHPRA and the National Boards welcome ministers' response to National Scheme review report

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council met on 7 August 2015 at the COAG Health Council meeting to consider the final report of the independent review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

The purpose of the independent review was to assess the extent to which the National Scheme is meeting the objectives and guiding principles Health Ministers and State and Territory Parliaments had in mind when it began in 2010.

Ministers expressed strong support for the work of the National Scheme, noted that it was now embedded in the health system and was among the most significant and effective reforms of health profession regulation in Australia and internationally.

More information about the review can be found on the [COAG Health Council](#) website and on [AHPRA's](#) website.

Thank you to outgoing members

Last month we published the names of the new members of the Dental Board of Australia. The August meeting was the last meeting for the outgoing members.

We thank and congratulate the retiring members of the Board on their commitment to and enthusiasm for the regulation of the dental profession over a number of years, including before the start of the National Scheme.

They are:

- Dr Gerard Condon (Vic)
- Mr Stephen Herrick (ACT)
- Dr Mark Leedham (NT), and
- Mr Michael Miceli (NSW).

New resources help dental practitioners understand the benefits and risks of CT scans for children and young people

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) has released a range of resources aimed at reducing unnecessary radiation exposure to children and young people from computed tomography scans (CT scans).

As part of oral health care, dentists and dental specialists sometimes request or provide medical imaging known as cone beam CT scans (CBCT). Information for parents and carers, dentists, orthodontists, oral surgeons and other oral health care practitioners is published on the [Commission's website](#).

The Board expects all dental practitioners using CBCT in their practice to:

- practise within the scope of their education and training at all times
- be aware of, and follow all associated regulations and legislation including those related to the ownership, licensing and operation of CBCT equipment and the ARPANSA code, and
- practise within the requirements of the Dental Board's [Code of conduct](#) including facilitating the quality use of therapeutic products based on the best available evidence.

The third year of the CPD cycle has started

As mentioned last month, the third year of the continuing professional development (CPD) cycle started on 1 July 2015.

Dental practitioners with general, specialist and most forms of limited registration with the Board must complete a minimum of 60 hours of continuing professional development (CPD) activities over a set three-year cycle. The current cycle is from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2016.

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.

Are your contact details up to date?

AHPRA will be sending out the first round of renewal notices next month. It is important that your contact details are up to date.

You can check your details via 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.

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Chair, Dental Board of Australia
2 September 2015