



Communiqué

The 68th meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Friday 23 October 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.

Infection prevention and control forum

The Board together with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) held a forum with some of its key strategic partners on Thursday 22 October 2015 to focus our attention on effective infection prevention and control practice by dental practitioners.

We were joined by a range of professional associations for all the dental professions; our co-regulators in the Dental Council of New South Wales and the Queensland Office of Health Ombudsman; Chief Medical Officer, the Chief Medical Officer and representatives of Commonwealth and State health departments and public dental service providers; those involved with the education and training of dental practitioners; consumer representatives; and representatives of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

The session provided an opportunity for all of us to develop new, and build on existing, partnerships to gain a better understanding of how to support dental practitioners in practising effective infection prevention and control to minimise the risk to the public of transmission of healthcare associated infections during dental treatment.

You can read more about the forum [here](#).

Online renewal of registration is now open

Online renewal of registration is now open for dental practitioners registered in Australia.

A series of reminders to renew are being sent to dental practitioners by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), on behalf of the Board. The email reminders include a link to [online renewal](#) and will be sent to the email address you provided to AHPRA. These reminders will continue to be sent to dental practitioners until the renewal application is completed.

Revised registration standards published

Continuing professional development and Recency of practice

We have published revised registration standards for continuing professional development (CPD) and recency of practice/

To help dental practitioners prepare for commencement, the revised standards are being published in advance.

The revised standards come into effect on 1 December and will replace the standards that are currently in place. Further information is available [here](#).

Endorsement for conscious sedation

We have also published a revised registration standard for Endorsement for conscious sedation.

The requirements under the registration standard have not changed but rather the standard has been drafted to improve the understanding of these requirements including FAQ.

The *Guidelines for conscious sedation area of practice endorsement* have been retired as the critical information contained in these guidelines are now incorporated into the standard.

We have published supportive information on our website to support this implementation.

The [national register of practitioners](#) confirms if a dental practitioner's registration includes an endorsement.

Offences under the National Law

AHPRA has recently published information regarding '[What is an offence?](#)' Offences are breaches of the National Law, committed by registered health practitioners and unregistered individuals.

There are a number of offences created under the National Law, including the following:

- unlawful use of a protected title
- performing a restricted act
- holding out (claims by individuals or organisations as to registration), and
- unlawful advertising.

The webpage provides information about a new way in which offence complaints can be lodged.

ATO urges medical practice owners to prepare for SuperStream

National Boards communicate regularly and widely with the health practitioners they regulate.

From time to time, AHPRA and the National Boards are asked to use these communication channels to deliver key messages on behalf of their strategic partners including different levels and areas of government.

The Australian Tax Office is reminding health practice owners, including dental practices, that employ 19 or fewer employees (small businesses) they need to pay their superannuation obligations via SuperStream.

Further information is available from the ATO [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
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