



Communiqué

June 2016

The 75th meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Friday 24 June 2016 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. This includes distributing it to the different levels in the organisation that you work in.

Professional Indemnity Insurance registration standard

The revised *Professional indemnity insurance (PII) registration standard* came into effect on 1 July 2016.

The standard has not changed significantly. Some changes have been made to improve the clarity and workability of the standard, and understanding of the requirements and obligations of registrants.

All dental practitioners (except those with non-practising registration) must comply with the revised standard by the time of the renewal of their registration, which is due by 30 November 2016.

Further information is available [here](#).

Continuing Professional Development cycle dates

The revised *Continuing professional development (CPD) registration standard* came into effect on 1 December 2015. Dental practitioners are required to complete a minimum of 60 hours of CPD activities over a three-year CPD cycle. More information is available [here](#).

Each three-year CPD cycle covers three registration periods. The start and end dates of the three-year CPD cycle has changed to align with the renewal of registration dates. The next CPD cycle will be running from 1 December 2016 until 30 November 2019.

There is a five month transition period until the next CPD cycle from 1 July 2016 to 30 November 2016.

During this time we encourage dental practitioners to continue to undertake CPD activities. Any CPD activities that dental practitioners complete during this time count towards the new cycle starting on 1 December 2016. CPD hours completed in this five-month period cannot count towards the cycle that just ended on 30 June 2016.

Entry level competencies for dental specialists

We have published [new entry level competencies for dental specialists](#). These have been developed in partnership with New Zealand's Dental Council (the Council).

They describe the level of competence expected of applicants for specialist registration with the Board and the Council.

We have published a [consultation report](#) to provide a summary of the consultation process undertaken to develop these competencies. This report:

- identifies key themes from the submissions received
- provides a brief summary of responses to each of the questions posed in the consultation paper

- gives a summary of changes in the final approved version, and
- sets out the proposed next steps.

Assessment of overseas-qualified dental specialist application

We and AHPRA have developed a new process to assess overseas specialist qualifications for substantial equivalence to an approved Australian specialist program.

Clear criteria and evidence requirements have been developed to support the assessment of overseas specialist qualifications. Further information is published on [our website](#). Dental specialists appointed to assessment panels by the Board do this assessment on behalf of the Board.

The first round of recruitment of these assessment panel members has been completed and successful applicants will be notified in coming weeks. We have decided to keep this application process open indefinitely to allow interested practitioners to apply at a time that suits them.

Further information including how to apply is available on [our website](#), here.

The Board is continuing to explore further revisions to the specialist assessment pathways. We are currently undertaking a procurement process for a bidder to develop an outcome based assessment model for dental specialist applications. We will continue to engage with the profession as this work progresses, including consulting on any proposed amendments to the specialist registration standard.

National awareness campaign

The third and final phase of AHPRA's national awareness campaign is underway. Under the headline of [Safe in the knowledge](#), the phase targets the public to increase awareness of the [national register of health practitioners](#) and encourages them to check it before visiting their practitioner. The AHPRA website has been updated with additional information on what the public can do if a practitioner can't be found on the register.

As part of the campaign, employers of health practitioners have been urged to understand their obligations while practitioners have also been encouraged to stay up to date with regulation changes as they occur, and to be aware of their obligations as registered practitioners.

New quarterly performance reports available

The January to March 2016 quarterly performance reports for the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the National Boards are now available.

The reports, which are part of an ongoing drive by AHPRA and the National Boards to increase their accountability and transparency, include data specific to each state and territory.

Each report covers AHPRA and the National Boards' main areas of activity:

- managing applications for registration as a health practitioner
- managing notifications about the health, performance and conduct of registered health practitioners and offences against the National Law, and
- monitoring health practitioners and students with restrictions on their registration.

The reports are available on the [Statistics](#) page.

News from AHPRA

We work in partnership with AHPRA and the other thirteen (13) National Boards to deliver the [National Scheme](#).

Whilst we publish [news items](#) specific to our work in regulating dental practitioners, AHPRA [publishes](#) updates on work from across the scheme. This includes communiqués from key meetings with government and other stakeholders.

We encourage you to review these from time to time. You are also able to subscribe to the AHPRA newsletter by [registering here](#).

Are your contact details up to date?

If you received our latest e-newsletter, it means you have a current and active registered with us. If you didn't receive it you need to check your details. You can do this 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.

John Lockwood AM
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
27 July 2016