



Communiqué

September 2016 meeting of the Dental Board of Australia

The 78th meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Friday 30 September 2016 at the AHPRA South Australia Office in Adelaide.

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 to colleagues and interested parties, including within the organisation you work in.

Online renewal of registration is now open

Dental practitioners who are due to renew their general, specialist or non-practising registration with (the Board by 30 November can apply online now. A video explaining how to renew registration online is available on the [Practitioner Services](#) page of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) website.

Dental practitioners are reminded to carefully read the Board's [registration standards](#) which specify the profession's standards of practice before making the required declarations in their application for renewal of registration.

Last month the Board [announced](#) that it had set the registration fee for 2016/17, limiting the fee increase to national CPI for the registration period 1 December 2016 to 30 November 2017. A [fee schedule](#), including the fee arrangements for practitioners whose principal place of practice is NSW1, is published on the Board's website.

A series of reminders to renew are being sent to practitioners by AHPRA on behalf of the Board. The email reminders include a link to [online renewal](#).

A video explaining how to renew registration online is available on the [Practitioner Services](#) page of the AHPRA website. More information is available on the Board's [website](#).

Do you need to renew your conscious sedation endorsement?

Dentists or dental specialists who use conscious sedation in their practice must have endorsed registration.

Individuals who hold an endorsement for conscious sedation must complete an approved refresher course before applying for renewal of registration and the endorsement. The [national register of practitioners](#) confirms if a dental practitioner's registration includes an endorsement.

More information about [conscious sedation](#) is available on the Board's website.

More information about your advertising obligations

National Boards across the National Scheme continued to discuss issues about claims in advertising, in particular claims about benefits of treatments.

The Board would like to remind all practitioners that they must comply with the provisions of the National Law on the advertising of regulated health services, relevant national, state and territory consumer protection legislation and, if applicable, legislation regulating the advertising of therapeutic goods.

The Board has published further information on its [website](#) to help dentists better understand their advertising obligations, including [Further information on advertising therapeutic claims](#).

This information does not replace the Board's [Guidelines for advertising regulated health services](#) which should be dentists' first point of reference to understanding their obligations.

The burden is on you to substantiate any claim you make that your treatments benefit patients. If you do not understand whether the claims you have made can be substantiated based on acceptable evidence, then remove them from your advertising.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is responsible for prosecuting breaches of the advertising requirements in the National Law. This means that AHPRA with the Board needs to decide whether there has been a breach of your advertising obligations.

These are serious matters that can have serious consequences for your professional standing and your criminal record: **if in doubt about a claim, leave it out of your advertising.**

Are your contact details up-to-date?

It is important that your contact details are up-to-date to receive renewal reminders from AHPRA and information from the Board. 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.

John Lockwood AM
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
18 October 2016