



Communiqué

November 2016 meeting of the Dental Board of Australia

The 80th meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Friday 25 November 2016 at 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 to colleagues and interested parties, including in the organisation you work in.

Annual Report 2015/16

The 2015/16 Annual Report of AHPRA and the National Boards has been published.

The Annual Report is a comprehensive record of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) for the 12 months ending 30 June 2016.

Over the past year, the Board intensified its focus on infection prevention and control requirements for registered dental practitioners. Initiatives implemented over the past 12 months included an awareness campaign targeting all dental practitioners to remind them of the Board's [Guidelines of infection control](#), which included a mail-out, fact sheet and self-assessment tool. A [tips for patients](#) fact sheet was also published by AHPRA and the Board, and a forum was held in October 2015 to bring various organisations together to strengthen partnerships and gain a better understanding of how to support dental practitioners to practise effective infection prevention and control.

More information and data relating to the Board in 2015/16 are available in the [Annual Report](#).

Supplementary tables that break down data across categories such as registrations, notifications (complaints or concerns), statutory offences, tribunals and appeals, and monitoring and compliance are also available on the [AHPRA Annual Report](#) webpage.

In the coming months, AHPRA and the National Boards will also publish summaries of our work regulating health practitioners in every state and territory, which will be released in late 2016. Expanded, profession-specific summaries will also be released and progressively published from early 2017.

Annual regulatory planning

The Board held its annual planning session in conjunction with the November Board meeting. As well as reflecting on the work completed over the past year the session allowed us to plan work for next year.

The Board has identified a number of new and ongoing priorities, and over the coming months will develop a work plan for 2017/18. The work plan will be published on the Board's website as part of the next Health Profession Agreement (HPA) between AHPRA and the Board.

In planning the Board works closely with AHPRA and the other National Boards to ensure that the work that they need to do as regulators of the dental profession can be achieved. The Board also considers if the work can be done in collaboration with other National Boards to support consistency in regulatory policy across the professions.

Consultation on proposed entry level competencies for endorsement for conscious sedation

The Board has started its public consultation on proposed entry level competencies for endorsement for conscious sedation.

The Board has developed these proposed entry level competencies to clearly establish the minimum competency standards expected of applicants for endorsement of registration for conscious sedation.

The public consultation paper is published in the [current consultation section](#) of the Board's website and submissions will be accepted until 13 January 2017.

Reminder: have you renewed your registration for 2016/17?

More than 21,700 dental practitioners hold general, specialist or non-practising registration with the Board. To date, 77 per cent of dental practitioners due to renew have applied [online](#).

Renewal applications received in December will incur a late payment fee in addition to the annual renewal fee. This is outlined in the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory ([the National Law](#)). A [fees schedule](#) is published on the Board's website.

Dental practitioners, whose application for general or specialist registration is received on time or during the following one month late period, can continue practising while their application is processed.

Practitioners who do not apply to renew their registration by 31 December 2016 will have lapsed registration. They will be removed from the [Register of Practitioners](#) and will not be able to practise their profession in Australia.

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
6 December 2016