



Communiqué

December 2016 meeting of the Dental Board of Australia

The 81st meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Friday 16 December 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.

Update to the Dental hygienist, dental therapist and oral health therapist webpage

The Board has updated the [dental hygienist](#), [dental therapist](#) and [oral health therapist](#) webpages with information and frequently asked questions (FAQ).

The webpages now include information covering use of protected titles, transition from dental hygienist and dental therapist into oral health therapist, and registration in multiple divisions and meeting registration standards.

The out of date *Registration as an oral health therapist fact sheet* has been removed from the website.

Latest profession statistics released

The Board has released its quarterly registration data. Read the latest report and other statistics on Board's [Statistics page](#).

New approved program of study in Oral Surgery

The Board recently approved a new program of study - the University of Sydney's Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Oral Surgery) program, which will take effect from 1 January 2017.

Until now there has been no approved program of study under the NRAS leading to specialist registration in oral surgery.

As a result of this approval, the Qualification equivalence pathway for specialist registration will be available for applicants who hold a qualification not approved by the Board (e.g an overseas qualification) in the oral surgery speciality.

An [online search](#) is available for all approved programs of study leading to general and specialist registration as a dental practitioner.

Reminder: Consultation on proposed entry level competencies for endorsement for conscious sedation

Submissions to the Board public consultation on proposed entry level competencies for endorsement for conscious sedation will be accepted until 13 January 2017.

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.

Guidance issued on endorsements about scheduled medicines

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council) has recently endorsed *Guidance for National Boards: Applications to the Ministerial Council for approval of endorsements in relation to scheduled medicines under section 14 of the National Law*¹ (the Guidance).

The Guidance is designed to be used by National Boards when preparing applications to the Ministerial Council for approval of an endorsement for scheduled medicines for their profession.

The objectives of the Guidance are to:

- ensure robust, evidence-informed development and assessment of proposals for the use of scheduled medicines
- promote the safe and effective use of scheduled medicines
- facilitate common standards across professions for training and clinical practice with respect to the use of scheduled medicines, and/or
- facilitate nationally-consistent, core scheduled medicines authorities to enable innovation in health service delivery.

AHPRA and National Boards will be producing information for stakeholders to support the implementation of the Guidance. This is expected to be published in early 2017.

The Guidance is published on the AHPRA website, see the [Ministerial directives and communiqués](#)

AHPRA Performance Report July-September 2016

The July to September 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](#).

To provide feedback on the reports please email: reportingfeedback@ahpra.gov.au.

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.

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Chair, Dental Board of Australia
5 January 2017