



Communiqué

March 2017 meeting of the Dental Board of Australia

The 83rd meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Friday 31 March 2017 at the State Office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in Sydney.

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.

Meeting with Dental Council of New South Wales

The Board's meeting was held in Sydney this month to coincide with a joint meeting on 30 March between the Board and the [Dental Council of New South Wales](#) (the Council). This was an opportunity for Council and Board members to discuss the common issues in regulating the dental profession under the National Scheme¹ and the NSW co-regulatory model.

Call for applications for appointment to state and territory committees of the Dental Board of Australia

The Board invites applications from registered and experienced dental practitioners and community members seeking appointment to the following committees of the Board:

- Australian Capital Territory Registration and Notification Committee of the Dental Board of Australia.
- New South Wales Registration Committee of the Dental Board of Australia.
- Northern Territory Registration and Notification Committee of the Dental Board of Australia.
- Queensland Registration and Notification Committee of the Dental Board of Australia.
- South Australian Registration and Notification Committee of the Dental Board of Australia.
- Tasmanian Registration and Notification Committee of the Dental Board of Australia.
- Victorian Registration and Notification Committee of the Dental Board of Australia.
- Western Australian Registration and Notification Committee of the Dental Board of Australia.

Registration and Notification Committee appointments are made by the Board under the National Law². They advise the Board and make decisions where the Board has delegated powers to them.

Appointments are for up to three years, with eligibility for reappointment and are expected to start on 1 July 2017.

If interested, applicants will need a detailed knowledge of the National Law, Board policies, codes and guidelines, practice standards and legislation in their jurisdiction. Applications will be assessed by a Selection Advisory Panel for appointable positions.

For more information on the role and the application process, please visit the Board's [website](#).

¹ National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

² Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

Video for dental practitioners

The Board has launched a video for dental practitioners *An overview of your obligations as a registered dental practitioner*.

As the regulator of dental practitioners, one of the Board's objectives is to keep the public safe by ensuring that only dental practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered. The Board has in place specific standards, policies, guidelines and code in order to achieve this objective.

The video provides an overview of the dental practitioners' obligations which are described in the Board's standards, policies, guidelines and code. It highlights some of the key requirements for dental practitioners to maintain registration and provide guidance to dental practitioners on expected behaviours.

It is important to note that the video does not cover all the details of the requirements and that dental practitioners should check the Board's website for further details at www.dentalboard.gov.au.

You can the video on the [Board's website](#) or on the [Vimeo](#) and [YouTube](#) channels of the Australia Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

Entry-level competencies for endorsement for conscious sedation

The Board has published [entry-level competencies](#) expected of applicants for endorsement of registration in the conscious sedation area of practice.

Dentists who apply for endorsement of registration for conscious sedation will already have the competencies of a graduate dentist which are outlined in the Professional competencies of the newly qualified dentist developed by the [Australian Dental Council](#).

Regulatory actions

Dental practitioners can find out more about the outcomes of court and tribunal action involving dental practitioners on the Board's website, see *News section* on www.dentalboard.gov.au or the *Publication and resources* section of www.ahpra.gov.au where there is a page dedicated to court and tribunal outcomes.

In a recent decision of interest, [Selia v Commonwealth of Australia \[2017\] FCA 7](#) (13 January 2017), the Federal Court considered an application for judicial review. The application arose from a Professional Services Review Committee (PSRC) finding that a dentist, Dr Selia, had engaged in 'inappropriate practice, 'under the Professional Services Review Scheme under Part VAA of the Health Insurance Act 1973 (Cth) (PSRS).

There were no concerns raised about the practitioner's clinical care. The practitioner did not provide all of the services referred to in the case. Many of the services referenced were provided by other clinicians working with Dr Selia. Dr Selia had billed Medicare for dental services in advance of rendering them. The PSRC directed that the dentist be reprimanded, counselled and required to repay an amount to Medicare – some 60% of the amount charged. The Federal Court of Australia determined, inter alia, that pre-billing could constitute 'inappropriate practice' within the meaning of the PSRS – that this notion was not limited to clinical matters and the application for review was rejected.

New accreditation publications about costs and international accreditation systems

Two new papers have been published about key aspects of the accreditation functions under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

The papers provide a new analysis of accreditation costs and an international comparison of accreditation systems for registered health professions in comparable health systems.

To read more about the papers, visit the [news item](#) on the AHPRA website.

COAG Health Council Meeting Communique

The Federal and state and territory Health Ministers met in Melbourne on 24 March 2017 at the [COAG Health Council](#) to discuss a range of national health issues. The meeting was chaired by the Victorian Minister for Health, the Hon Jill Hennessy. AHPRA CEO attended the Australian Health Workforce

Ministerial Council (the Council) meeting which brings together all Health Ministers throughout Australia to provide oversight for the work of the National Accreditation and Registration Scheme (the National Scheme). AHPRA and National Boards provide a regular update to the Council on our work.

This meeting had a particular focus on the progress of amendments to the National Law which among other things will pave the way for the registration of paramedics from 2018 and a call for expressions of interest and nominations for first appointments to the National Board prior to this. Ministers also discussed further amendments to the National Law to increase the penalties for people holding out as registered practitioners.

The Council produces a Communiqué from its meeting which can be accessed on [AHPRA's website](#).

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
11 April 2017