



## Communiqué

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### November 2017 meeting of the Dental Board of Australia

The 91<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Friday 24 November 2017 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 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 2018/19. The Board's work plan will be published on the Board's website as part of the next Health Profession Agreement (HPA) between AHPRA and the Board.

When planning its regulatory work the Board works closely with AHPRA and the other National Boards to ensure that the work needed to be carried out as regulators of the dental profession is achieved. The Board also considers if appropriate work should be done in collaboration with other National Boards to support consistency in regulatory policy across the 14 regulated health professions.

#### Quarterly registration data released

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

#### AHPRA's annual report

The Annual Report for AHPRA and National Boards reveals how the Board has worked to protect the public in 2016/17. The report is a comprehensive record of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) for the 12 months to 30 June 2017.

The dental practitioner workforce grew by 3% over the past year, to 22,383 total registrants. Dental practitioners now constitute 3.3% of the 678,983 registrants currently in the National Scheme, despite the number of registered dental students decreasing marginally (by 1.5%) during the year, from 4,810 at 30 June 2016 to 4,736 at 30 June 2017.

The Board took a proactive approach to raising awareness about the obligations of registered dental practitioners during the year, communicating with both the profession and the public on rights and responsibilities. In the coming weeks, AHPRA and the Board will also publish a summary of our work regulating dental practitioners.

For more information visit the [Annual Report microsite](#) on the AHPRA website.

## Update on the Independent Accreditation Systems Review

In October 2016 health ministers commissioned Professor Michael Woods, former Productivity Commissioner, to carry out the Independent Accreditation Systems Review (the Review). Following public consultations Professor Woods has prepared [draft recommendations](#) for ministers. Many of the reforms in his draft report that would, in their current form, require significant changes to our legislation and how we manage the accreditation of courses leading to registration as well as assessment of internationally qualified practitioners.

In response to the draft recommendations, AHPRA and National Boards have published a joint submission to the Review on the [AHPRA website](#). In summary we propose that a more effective and efficient approach would be to make changes to roles of AHPRA, National Boards and Accreditation Councils, rather than create new regulatory bodies with the likely cost and complexity this could create. We believe that this would deliver the changes required to support the professional health workforce required by Australia.

The joint submission includes additional responses from four participating National Boards - Chiropractic, Medical, Optometry and Psychology. The Pharmacy Board made a separate [submission](#) and has published this on their [website](#).

AHPRA and National Boards look forward to the Review's final report and health ministers' response in due course. A news item including a high level summary of key aspects of the joint submission has been published on the [AHPRA 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.

### Conclusion

The National Board publishes a range of information about registration and the National Board's expectations of practitioners on its website at [www.dentalboard.gov.au](http://www.dentalboard.gov.au) or [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

For more information or help with questions about your registration please send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

John Lockwood AM  
**Chair, Dental Board of Australia**  
28 November 2017