

Registration standards: Consultation drafts

Date: 22 December 2010

Proposed Registration Standards:

Section 66 – Limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice

Section 68 – Limited registration in public interest

Section 69 – Limited registration for teaching or research

Introduction to the consultation drafts

Under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (the National Law), the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) is empowered to develop and recommend to the Ministerial Council registration standards about issues relevant to the eligibility of individuals for registration in the dental profession. The Board has prepared draft Registration Standards relating to registration in the following categories of Limited registration:

- **Postgraduate training or supervised practice** (this includes registration for employment in a Public Sector Dental Workforce Scheme, to undertake the Australian Dental Council exam or other exam required by the Board, or to undertake postgraduate studies)
- **Public interest**
- **Teaching or research**

Limited registration is available for individuals who are not qualified for general registration because their qualifications in dental care are not recognised by the Board, such as those who have qualifications from overseas jurisdictions. The Board may grant Limited registration to an individual for a specific and limited purpose and for a limited timeframe.

Your comments invited

The Board now invites interested stakeholders to provide their written comments on the draft standards. Your feedback can be emailed or posted:

To: The Executive Officer,
Dental Board of Australia

Email: dentalboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au or

Post: GPO Box 9958
Melbourne VIC 3001

Due date: Friday 18 March 2011.

Your submission will be published on the website unless you request otherwise. The Board will consider all submissions received before finalising the proposed standards and providing them to Ministerial Council for approval.

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REGISTRATION STANDARD

Section 66 – Limited Registration of dental practitioners for postgraduate training or supervised practice

Authority

This Registration Standard has been developed by the Dental Board of Australia ('the Board') for consultation under section 38 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* ('National Law').

Summary

The Standard sets out the requirements of the Board to register dental practitioners, who are not qualified for general registration, to undertake postgraduate training or supervised practice, under section 66 *Limited Registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice* ('Limited registration – training /supervised practice') of the National Law.

The Standard sets out both the initial and ongoing requirements of Limited registration – training/supervised practice. (Additional requirements for registration under Limited registration – training/supervised practice are set out in the relevant Board Guideline for the specific pathway of Limited registration – training /supervised practice¹.)

The key requirement of Limited registration – training /supervised practice is that the Board must be satisfied that the dental practitioner has completed a qualification that is relevant to and suitable for postgraduate training or supervised practice. In addition, there are requirements for the specific pathways for registration under Limited registration – training /supervised practice, which are set out below.

Scope of application

This standard applies to overseas trained dental practitioners who are applying for limited registration to undertake postgraduate training or supervised practice under section 66 of the National Law or for renewal of limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice under Part 7 Division 9 of the National Law.

Pathways for Limited registration – training / supervised practice

The pathways for Limited registration – training /supervised practice and specific requirements are:

Pathway A - Supervised Practice – Practising only under supervision and either:

1. an employment relationship with an *appropriate public sector program*; **or**
2. enrolment in the *Australian Dental Council (ADC) final clinical exam* and/or in a clinical training or assessment program in preparation for an *ADC exam* or in another examination required by the Board for registration under section 53(c) of the National Law.

Pathway B - Postgraduate Training - Enrolment in an *Approved postgraduate program of study* or other postgraduate training program approved by the Board.

Requirements

The requirements of the Board for registration in Limited registration – training /supervised practice are:

1. Compliance with the requirements of section 65 of the National Law – Eligibility for Limited registration.
2. An overseas undergraduate dental qualification which is relevant to and suitable for postgraduate training or supervised practice. These qualifications will be:
 - a) for dentists, an undergraduate dental qualification from the *ADC approved list*; **or**

¹ These Guidelines currently do not exist, but may be developed by the Board.

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b) for all other dental practitioners (including dentists with an undergraduate dental qualification from countries not on the *ADC approved list*) a qualification which is of equivalent duration to an Australian graduate in the division of the Register of Dental Practitioners they are seeking registration in. As a guideline the Board will apply the following minimum requirements:

- Dentist - 4 years full-time;
- Dental Prosthetist – 3 years full time including dental technical course;
- Oral Health Therapist – Bachelor of Oral Health 3 years full time;
- Dental Therapist and Dental Hygienist – 2 years full time and dual qualified 3 years full time.

3. Practice only in accordance with the Board's *Guidelines on Supervision* and comply with the Supervision Plan and Supervision Report requirements (as set out in the Board's *Guidelines on Supervision*) if required.
4. Compliance with the requirements of the Board's *Guidelines on Infection Control* and a declaration (at initial application and renewal of registration) of infection status for blood-borne viruses.
5. Compliance with the Board's English Language Skills Registration Standard.
6. Provide evidence of current registration to practise and recency of clinical practice in accordance with the Board Guideline for the specific pathway of Limited registration – training /supervised practice.²

In addition, for **Pathway A-1** for Limited registration – training /supervised practice (for definition see first page of Standard):

7. A:
 - a) dentist with qualifications from the *ADC approved list* is granted an exemption from the preliminary ADC exam
 - b) dentist with an undergraduate dental qualification from another country, not on the *ADC approved list*, must complete the preliminary ADC exam.
8. Completion of the *ADC final clinical exam*:
 - a) for a dentist with qualifications from the *ADC approved list* within three years of being employed in the *appropriate public sector program*
 - b) for a dentist with an undergraduate dental qualification from another country, not on the *ADC approved list*, within one year of being employed in the *appropriate public sector program* (this may be extended for an additional year only with the agreement of the public sector employer and the Board).

Length of registration period and ability to renew Limited registration

Pathway A-1 (for definition see first page of Standard)

- Dentists with qualifications from the *ADC approved list* - Limited registration – training /supervised practice registration is granted for a maximum period of three (3) years renewable annually.
- Dentists with an undergraduate dental qualification from other countries not on the *ADC approved list* - Limited registration – training /supervised practice registration is granted for a maximum period of two (2) years renewable annually.

Pathway A-2 (for definition see first page of Standard)

Limited registration – training /supervised practice to undertake the *ADC final clinical exam* and/or a clinical training or assessment program in preparation for an *ADC exam*, or to undertake an examination required by the Board for registration under section 53(c) of the National Law, is granted for a period of six months, which is renewable for a further six month period if necessary. Where there are special circumstances a period of up to but not exceeding twelve (12) months may be granted at initial registration. The maximum period of registration is 12 months.

² These Guidelines currently do not exist, but may be developed by the Board.

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Pathway B (for definition see first page of Standard)

Limited registration – training /supervised practice is granted for a maximum period of three (3) years renewable annually.

Notation on the Register of Dental Practitioners

Registration in Limited registration – training /supervised practice is granted for a particular purpose and for a limited time. The terms of the Limited registration will be notated on the Register of Dental Practitioners and any practice outside those terms **is not permitted**.

The type of notation that will appear on the public register will be for example: *Limited registration for <postgraduate training / supervised practice> is granted under section 66 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act from <date> to <date> for the purpose of <name of postgraduate training course / name of examination / details of the Public Sector Dental Workforce Scheme work and supervision arrangements> at <location/s>. Practice outside these parameters is not permitted.*

Board's ability to cancel or refuse to Renew the Limited Registration – Training / Supervised Practice

The Board may cancel or refuse to renew the Limited registration – training /supervised practice for any of the following:

- a) the registrant's employment or enrolment in the postgraduate program of study ceases or is terminated
- b) the registrant fails to comply with supervision requirements
- c) supervision reports have not been provided to the Board at the required intervals
- d) the registrant cannot demonstrate compliance with any terms, conditions or requirements on the Limited registration – training /supervised practice
- e) there is demonstrated unsatisfactory performance in the *appropriate public sector program* employment position
- f) the registrant has not met any other requirements of the National Law.

Relevant Board Standards, Codes and Guidelines

Dental practitioners granted registration in Limited registration – training /supervised practice should be aware of and comply with all the registration standards, codes and guidelines of the Board. The following are specifically relevant:

- **English Language Skills Registration Standard**
- **Guidelines on Supervision** – which include the requirements of Supervision Plans and Supervision Reports³
- **Guidelines for registration in Limited registration and supervised practice** – provide additional details for specific pathways for registration under section 66 *Limited Registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice* of the National Law⁴.
- **Guidelines on Infection Control**

Definitions

ADC approved list - the list approved and published on the Australian Dental Council website at: <http://www.adc.org.au> which includes listed undergraduate dental programs in Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, United Kingdom and the United States.

ADC exam – This captures both the preliminary (written) and final (clinical) examinations provided by the Australian Dental Council for registration for practitioners with overseas qualifications as set out on its website at: <http://www.adc.org.au>

³ These Guidelines have been drafted by the Board and are currently being consulted on.

⁴ These Guidelines currently do not exist but may be developed by the Board.

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ADC final clinical exam – This is the exam provided by the Australian Dental Council for registration for practitioners with overseas qualifications as set out on its website at: <http://www.adc.org.au/>. The general objective of the ADC Final Clinical Examination is to evaluate the clinical competence of the candidate in terms of dental knowledge, clinical skills and professional attitudes for the safe and effective clinical practice of dentistry in the Australian community.

Appropriate public sector program – an employer which is a part of a State or Territory Health department or a facility directly funded by a State or Territory Health department. In addition, for dentists with an undergraduate dental qualification from other countries not on the *ADC approved list*, the public sector employment program must include:

- a rigorous assessment of the clinical skills and knowledge at the commencement of their employment role;
- the first three-month period of employment is within a metropolitan public sector facility; and
- in the first three months of employment, a program covering familiarisation with dental practice in Australia, cultural awareness and skill development, provided by the public sector employer.

Approved postgraduate program of study – Is a postgraduate program of study which is published in the Board's *Approved Programs of Study* list under *Qualifications which lead to specialist registration for Dentists* and available on the Dental Board of Australia's website at www.dentalboard.gov.au

Applications for variation in changed circumstances

If a registrant in the Limited registration – training /supervised practice category has a **significant change** in circumstances, such as a change in the employment position or post graduate program of study, they must submit a new application for limited registration. However, registrants can apply to the Board for a variation if there is a minor change to their circumstances, such as a change in their supervisor or an extension of the registration period if granted for **less than** 12 months.

Review

This Registration Standard will commence on the day it is approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council. The Board will review this Registration Standard every three years.

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REGISTRATION STANDARD Section 68 – Limited Registration in public interest

Authority

This Registration Standard ('the Standard') has been developed by the Dental Board of Australia ('the Board') for consultation under section 38 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* ('National Law').

Summary

Section 68 *Limited Registration in public interest* of the National Law allows the Board to register dental practitioners, who are not qualified for general registration, for a short term in the public interest. The Board has developed the Standard to set out the requirements a dental practitioner must meet in order to be granted limited registration in the public interest under section 68 of the National Law.

Examples of where it might be in the public interest to register a dental practitioner include: an unexpected situation where a natural disaster has occurred; for an expert to demonstrate a clinical procedure or participate in a workshop.

Scope of application

This standard applies to overseas trained dental practitioners who are applying for limited registration in the public interest under section 68 of the National Law.

Requirements

The Board requirements for Limited registration in the public interest are:

1. Compliance with the requirements of section 65 of the National Law – Eligibility for Limited registration.
2. A dental practitioner qualification of equivalent duration to an Australian graduate in the division of the Register of Dental Practitioners for which registration is being sought. As a guideline the Board will apply the following minimum requirements:
 - Dentist - 4 years full-time;
 - Dental Prosthetist – 3 years full time including dental technical course;
 - Oral Health Therapist – bachelor level qualification in oral health, 3 years full time; and
 - Dental Therapist and Dental Hygienist - 2 years full time and dual qualified 3 years full time.

For Specialists the minimum requirement is 4 years general training and 2 years post general qualification practice plus a three year full time course in a dental speciality.

3. Evidence of current registration to practise clinical dentistry and where the applicant's qualification was awarded more than 3 years before the date of application, evidence that the applicant has practised clinical dentistry for a minimum of 250 hours per year for the last 3 years.
4. Written detail with verification of the:
 - a. employer/sponsoring organisation and/or sponsoring registered dental practitioner; and
 - b. details of the clinical activities that will be undertaken and the location/s.
5. Where registration is required for more than one month, details of a **supervision plan**, prepared in accordance with the Board's Guidelines on Supervision and details of the registered dental practitioner/s nominated as the supervisor/s.
6. Agreement to practise only under the supervision of a dental practitioner who is registered in the division of the Register of Dental Practitioners in which the applicant is seeking limited registration.
7. Compliance with the requirements of the Board's Guidelines on Infection Control (as published on the Board's website).

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Period of Limited Registration

Limited registration in the public interest is a short term category of registration and therefore will be granted generally for a period of one month unless there are special circumstances to require Limited registration in the public interest for up to but not exceeding three (3) months (note the **supervision plan** requirements).

Limited registration in the public interest is not renewable.

Notation on the Register of Dental Practitioners

Dental practitioners granted Limited registration in the public interest should note that the registration is granted for a particular purpose and for a limited time. The terms of the Limited registration will be notated on the Register of Dental Practitioners and any practice outside those terms **is not permitted**.

The type of notation that will appear on the public register will be for example: *Limited registration in the public interest is granted under section 68 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act from <date> to <date> for the purpose of <description of role> at <location>. Practice outside these parameters is not permitted.*

Definitions

Supervision plan means a plan that sets out the arrangements for supervision of the dental practitioner which is a prerequisite for limited registration in the public interest for a period of longer than one month, as described in the Board's Guidelines on Supervision.

Review

This Registration Standard will commence on the day it is approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council. The Board will review this Registration Standard every three years.

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REGISTRATION STANDARD Section 69 – Limited Registration for teaching or research

Authority

This Registration Standard ('the Standard') has been developed by the Dental Board of Australia ('the Board') for consultation under section 38 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* ('National Law').

Summary

Section 69 Limited Registration for teaching or research of the National Law, allows the Board to register dental practitioners to fill teaching or research positions. The Standard sets out the requirements for the Board to register dental practitioners under section 69 of the National Law with overseas qualifications who are not qualified for general registration.

The Standard sets out both the initial and ongoing requirements of Limited registration for teaching or research.

Scope of application

This standard applies to overseas trained dental practitioners who are applying for limited registration to fill a teaching or research position under section 69 of the National Law or for renewal of limited registration for teaching or research under Part 7 Division 9 of the National Law.

Requirements

The Board requirements for Limited registration for teaching and research are:

1. Compliance with the requirements of section 65 of the National Law – Eligibility for Limited registration.
2. A dental practitioner qualification of equivalent duration to an Australian graduate in the division of the Register of Dental Practitioners for which registration is being sought. As a guideline the Board will apply the following minimum requirements:
 - Dentist – 4 years full-time
 - Dental Prosthetist – 3 years full time including dental technical course
 - Oral Health Therapist – bachelor level qualification in oral health, 3 years full time
 - Dental Therapist and Dental Hygienist – 2 years full time and dual qualified 3 years full time.

For Specialists the minimum requirement is 4 years general training and 2 years post general qualification practice plus a three year full time course in a dental specialty.

3. Evidence of current registration to practise clinical dentistry and where the applicant's qualification was awarded more than 3 years before the date of application, evidence that the applicant has practised clinical dentistry for a minimum of 250 hours per year for the last 3 years.
4. Written details, with verification, of the teaching or research position.
5. Practice only in accordance with the Board's Guidelines on Supervision and comply with the Supervision Plan and Supervision Report requirements (as set out in the Board's Guidelines on Supervision).
6. Compliance with the requirements of the Board's Guideline on Infection Control and a declaration (at initial application and renewal of registration) of infection status for blood-borne viruses.

Length of registration period and ability to renew Limited registration

Limited registration, as set out by section 72 of the National Law must be renewed annually and can be renewed a maximum of three (3) times. After this time a new application for limited registration can be made and will need to meet the requirements for registration as set by the Board at that time.

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Board's ability to cancel or refuse to renew Limited Registration for Teaching or research

The Board may refuse to renew the Limited registration for teaching or research for any of the following:

- a) the registrant's employment ceases or is terminated
- b) the registrant fails to comply with supervision requirements
- c) the registrant cannot demonstrate compliance with any terms, conditions or requirements on the Limited registration for teaching or research
- d) there is demonstrated unsatisfactory performance in the employment position
- e) supervision reports have not been provided to the Board at the required intervals
- f) the registrant has not met any other requirements of the National Law.

Purpose of registration and notation on the Register of Dental Practitioners

Dental practitioners granted Limited registration for teaching or research should note that the registration is granted for the particular purpose which is the teaching or research employment position. A dental practitioner registered under this category of Limited registration will not be eligible to undertake private practice. The terms of the Limited registration for teaching or research will be notated on the Register of Dental Practitioners and any practice outside those terms **is not permitted**.

The type of notation that will appear on the public register will be for example: *Limited registration for teaching or research is granted under section 69 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act from <date> to <date> for the purpose of <description of teaching position and/or research role and supervision arrangements> at <location/s>. Practice outside these parameters is not permitted.*

Applications for variation in changed circumstances

If a registrant in Limited registration for teaching or research has a **significant change** in circumstances, such as a change in the employment position they must submit a new application for limited registration. However, registrants can apply to the Board for a variation if there is a minor change to their circumstances, such as a change in their supervisor.

Definitions

Supervision plan means a plan that sets out the arrangements for supervision of the dental practitioner, which is a prerequisite for limited registration for teaching or research, as described in the Board's Supervision Guidelines.

Supervision report means a report that sets out how the arrangements outlined in the *Supervision plan* have been implemented, as described in the Board's Supervision Guidelines.

Review

This Registration Standard will commence on the day it is approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council. The Board will review this Registration Standard every three years.