



Communiqué

Thirteenth meeting of the Dental Board of Australia 29 October 2010

The Dental Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (National Law) as in force in each state and territory.

Information on the Board's website

The Board continues to progressively publish information on its website at www.dentalboard.gov.au and is developing new Information Sheets, Registration Guidelines, Frequently Asked Questions and new forms for registration applications. Dental practitioners are encouraged to check the website regularly for updates and new information.

English Language

The Board has developed and published a Student Update in relation to *dental practitioner students from overseas currently completing the final year of an approved course - English Language Skills requirements*. This document further explains the exemptions provided for in the Board's English Language Skills Registration Standard specifically that the Board will:

- accept an OET or IELTS test result that is more than two years old, provided it is accompanied by proof that the candidate has since been continuously enrolled in a Board approved program of study.
- accept that students who completed the last two years of their secondary education in English meet the requirement of having 'undertaken and completed secondary education' taught and assessed in English in one of the following countries where English is the native or first language: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Information forum for Western Australian Dental Prosthetists

The Board will be holding an information forum in Perth for dental prosthetists on the new regulatory requirements of the national registration and accreditation scheme (the national scheme).

Registration Standards and Supervision Guideline

The Board will release the following Registration Standards for a two month public consultation period this month:

- Section 66 – Limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice;
- Section 68 – Limited registration in public interest
- Section 69 – Limited registration for teaching and research
- Section 53(b) – General Registration for dental practitioners with qualifications substantially equivalent to approved qualifications

In addition, the Board will release a draft Supervision Guideline relevant for the Limited registration categories of registration for consultation.

Forensic Odontology

A reminder that the Board agreed in September to allow a 12 month transitional pathway for dentists to register as forensic odontology specialists who have qualifications equivalent to New South Wales and Tasmanian dentists recognised as forensic odontology specialists. Dentists in NSW and Tasmania were the only dentists to transition into the specialty of forensic odontology as these were the only jurisdictions where the specialty was recognised prior to the National Scheme commencing.

Registered dentists with qualifications in the specialty of forensic odontology are encouraged to complete an *Application for specialist registration for a dentist* form which can be found on the Board's website at www.dentalboard.gov.au

Conscious Sedation Area of Practice endorsement

The Board's Conscious Sedation Working Group met on 27 September 2010 and provided recommendations to the Board in relation to the transition for dentists who practise in the area of conscious sedation. The Board has released a *Registration Guideline for Conscious Sedation Area of Practice Endorsement* (the Guideline), which can be found on the Board's website at www.dentalboard.gov.au. The Guideline will assist dentists who practise in the area of conscious sedation to determine their eligibility to apply for the Conscious sedation area of practice endorsement.

Dentists who practise in the area of conscious sedation have **12 months** after their relevant state or territory became a participating jurisdiction in the national scheme (i.e. for all states and territories except Western Australia (WA) the date is 1 July 2011, for WA the date is 18 October 2011) to meet the requirements of the Board's Registration Standard for *Endorsement in relation to conscious sedation*.

Dual qualified Dental Therapists and Dental Hygienists

The Board has agreed with a recommendation from the Board's Working Group (Oral Health Therapists (OHT), Dental Hygienists (DT), Dental Therapists (DT)) for two **additional transitional** pathways for registration in the division of OHT. These pathways are in addition to the already established pathway for registration in the division of OHT which is dual qualified DT and DH with a three year OHT bachelor program and recency of practice in both DT and DH. The *Oral Health Therapist's Registration* August 2010 document will be updated to reflect the new pathways and will be published on the Board's website at www.dentalboard.gov.au

Dental practitioners registered as both a DT and DH (and who meet one of the above pathway requirements) are under no obligation to register in the division of OHT. The ongoing renewal fee for dual registration in both divisions of DT and DH is the **same fee** for renewal of registration in the division of OHT. Eligible dental practitioners can be registered in either both divisions of DT and DH **OR** the division of OHT.

John Lockwood
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
9 November 2010