



SECOND MEETING OF THE DENTAL BOARD OF AUSTRALIA 23 OCTOBER 2009

The second meeting of the Dental Board of Australia was held on 23 October 2009 at the Hilton Melbourne Airport. The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*.

The Board considered an implementation update. It was noted that the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Bill 2009* (the Bill, the proposed national law) was introduced in the Queensland Parliament on 6 October.

The main focus of the Board's second meeting was further discussion of the proposals that would be the subject of the consultation process to occur in late October and November around registration and related matters.

The Board agreed to circulate a consultation paper covering proposals from the Dental Board of Australia on the following issues:

1. proposals for mandatory registration standards
2. proposals for scope of practice registration standards
3. proposals for specialist registration, and
4. proposals for endorsements.

Following the consultation period in November, the Board will conclude its position on registration proposals. The Board will complete this work in December in order to provide the proposals to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for decision.

The Board discussed the issue of codes and guidelines, and has agreed an initial list of those codes and guidelines to be developed prior to 1 July 2010, the scheduled start date for the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the Health Professions. The Dental Board of Australia has agreed to work on a process utilising the existing codes and guidelines of State and Territory boards and will be undertaking wide-ranging consultation as part of this work.

The Board considered the idea of a common code of conduct across health professions and agreed that some further work be completed on the possibility of the Australian Medical Council code of conduct, *Good Medical Practice*, being used as a basis for the development of such a code. The Board noted that there may be some issues specific to professions that would need to be incorporated into a code.

The Board also agreed to some initial transition arrangements for existing registrants, with some further work to be completed where current registrants do not fit easily into new types of registration. This second stage is to be agreed by the end March 2010. The Board will continue to work closely with existing State and Territory dental boards to ensure that all circumstances are covered in the lead up to the start of the new scheme.

The Board considered a number of administrative and financial matters, including its budget in 2010–2011 and possible fee structures. The Board will give further consideration to these matters at its November meeting.

The Board has made recommendations in relation to the State/Territory and regional boards that it wishes to operate, to assist the Agency in further developing a business plan for the national scheme. The Board considers that three State boards and two regional boards will need to be established. The Board will consider the composition of these boards in further detail at its November meeting, taking into consideration the requirements of the legislation governing the national scheme.

The Board acknowledged the further work done in preparation for implementation of the national scheme by the existing State and Territory boards, its accrediting authority, AHPRA and the National Registration and Accreditation Implementation Project team and looked forward to continuing to work with these groups over the coming months.

The next meeting of the Dental Board of Australia will be held in Melbourne on Friday, 20 November 2009.

Dr John Lockwood
Chair

5 November 2009