



## Media release

---

18 May 2011

### Dental practitioners urged to check registration expiry date

The Dental Board of Australia today urged dental practitioners across all states and territories to check their registration expiry date and renew on time as many are due to renew by 30 June 2011 – their first time under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Board Chair Dr John Lockwood said this was particularly important for dentists with a principal place of practice in ACT, New South Wales or South Australia. Practitioners can check their registration expiry date on the National Register of Dental Practitioners, published online at [www.dentalboard.gov.au](http://www.dentalboard.gov.au). The best way to search the Register is by name and profession.

Dental practitioners who are due to renew by 30 June 2011 are reminded that they will need to renew their registration again by 30 November 2011. This will align all dental practitioners to the national renewal date of 30 November each year.

Dr Lockwood encouraged dental practitioners whose registration expires on 30 June 2011 to renew on time and online.

“In the National Scheme, individual practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time. The job of the Dental Board of Australia – with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) – is to make this as simple and straightforward as possible,” he said.

Dr Lockwood said AHPRA was implementing an intensive communication campaign to support the renewal process. This will include sending several reminder emails and letters to individual dental practitioners. He encouraged practitioners to provide AHPRA with their email address to allow for easy and efficient direct communication with them.

Dr Lockwood reminded dental practitioners that there were significant consequences for individual practitioners who do not renew on time in the National Scheme.

Under the National Law, dental practitioners who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the National Register of Dental Practitioners. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise dentistry in Australia until a new application for registration is approved.

“Neither the Board nor AHPRA have any discretion about this so our advice is clear: renew on time and online,” Dr Lockwood said.

#### **Practitioners who need to renew by 30 June 2011 and again by 30 November 2011 are:**

- Dentists in ACT and SA
- Hygienists in ACT, NSW and SA

- Oral therapists in NSW
- Dental prosthetists in NSW and SA
- Therapists in NSW, SA and ACT

## Background

There are some simple steps dental practitioners can follow for easy and straightforward renewal of registration:

1. **Check your contact details** – make sure the contact details AHPRA holds for you, including email and mobile telephone, are correct and current. This will allow AHPRA to send you renewal reminders and contact you easily
2. **Check your registration expiry date** – practitioners can view their expiry date on the National Register of Dental Practitioners, accessible at [www.dentalboard.gov.au](http://www.dentalboard.gov.au) and enter their last name and profession to search
3. **Watch for the notice to renew registration** – a notice to renew registration, including the unique contact number (user ID) supporting online renewal, will be mailed to each practitioner about eight weeks before registration expires
4. **Use online services** for quick and easy renewal of registration – most practitioners can renew registration online using the unique contact number (user ID) provided on the registration renewal notice sent by AHPRA. Online renewal of registration usually takes between two and 48 hours, depending on the method of payment chosen by the practitioner and whether the application contains any adverse declarations.

Dental practitioners who do not have their unique contact number can get it by submitting an online enquiry form – selecting 'User ID' as the category of enquiry or by calling 1300 419 495. Practitioners can also mail their renewal application to AHPRA, GPO Box 9958, in their capital city.

Dental practitioners can check that their application has been received at the Board's website at [www.dentalboard.gov.au](http://www.dentalboard.gov.au). Practitioners whose application to renew registration has been received can practise while their application is being processed. The listing on the National Register of Dental Practitioners is evidence for employers that a practitioner is registered, even if their registration expiry date has passed.

Dental practitioners who forget to renew their registration by 30 June 2011, or within the one month late period, can apply to AHPRA for a fast-track application for registration. They are not able to practise in the profession until their registration application has been granted.

## Renew online – Register on time

### *For more information*

- Visit [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au) under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 7 3666 4911 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200