

## **COHS response to Dental Board of Australia Draft Registration Standards**

In December 2010 the Dental Board of Australia released draft Registration Standards and invited jurisdictions to comment.

The comments below are from the Centre for Oral Health Strategy, NSW

The draft Registration Standards are:

- 1. Draft registration standard for general registration of practitioners with qualifications substantially equivalent to approved qualifications**
2. Draft registration standards for limited registration
  - a. Postgraduate training or supervised practice (e.g. for employment in a Public Sector Dental Workforce Scheme or to undertake the Australian Dental Council exam)
  - b. Public interest
  - c. Teaching or research
3. Draft guidelines on supervision (for limited registration)

### **Comments**

#### **1. Substantially equivalent to approved qualifications**

##### Requirements

Requirement 2. The List of Approved Qualifications from Overseas Jurisdictions needs to be updated. The Dental Schools Council list of dental schools in the United Kingdom, updated in August 2010, is as follows:

University of Aberdeen  
Barts and the London, Queen Mary School of Medicine and Dentistry  
University of Birmingham  
University of Bristol  
Cardiff University  
University of Dundee  
University of Edinburgh  
University of Glasgow  
King's College London  
University of Central Lancashire  
University of Leeds  
University of Liverpool  
University of Manchester  
Newcastle University  
Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry  
Queen's University Belfast  
University of Sheffield  
University College London

Dental Schools in the Republic of Ireland are:

University of Cork  
University of Dublin

A statement about the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC) and a list of the programs offering the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery or Doctor of Dental Medicine would be useful.

The CDAC website notes:

**The Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC)** was established in 1988 by the Canadian Dental Association as an autonomous body responsible for accrediting dental, dental hygiene and dental assisting education programs in Canada.

Program category selected: General Dentistry (DDS/DMD)

Dalhousie University  
Laval University  
McGill University  
University of Alberta  
University of British Columbia  
University of Manitoba  
University of Montreal  
University of Saskatchewan  
University of Toronto  
University of Western Ontario

Requirement 3. This states that the applicant needs to be eligible for registration and to have satisfied all the requirements - but falls short of stating that the applicant must have taken the final step of actually obtaining registration in the country where they qualified.

This begs the question of why a dentist would not have taken that final step to registration in the country where he/she qualified, and yet, is now seeking full registration in Australia.

In contrast, the draft consultation document referring to Limited registration notes that the dentist with an overseas qualification “must provide evidence of current registration to practice”.

It is suggested that for consistency, a similar clause requiring a dentist to provide evidence of registration in the country where he/she qualified should replace the third requirement that simply states the dentist must be eligible to be registered in the relevant overseas jurisdiction.

The statement referring to requirements for Limited registration might be used:

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

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