

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

3. Supervision (for Limited registration)

Notifying the Board of concerns

The requirement that *“the supervisor must notify the Board immediately if there are concerns in relation to the registrant’s clinical performance....”* should be modified to place this responsibility on the employer of both the supervisor and the registrant.

To leave the responsibility with the supervisor alone could place him/her at odds with staff management and quality control mechanisms that are in place in the workplace to address issues of patient safety, competent practice and so on.

Requiring a report by the employer might therefore signal to the Board that all other avenues have been exhausted.

Report frequency

The report frequency (page 4) should be the same for all classes of Limited registration and could be either six or twelve months.

It is noted in particular that for a dentist on Limited registration – Supervised Practice from a university on the ADC approved list only one report in a 12 month period is required, but for others on a similar program **four** reports are required in the same period.

It is also noted that four reports a year are required for teaching staff.

Template for the supervision plan

Slight changes are needed to ensure that the categories of Limited registration listed in the template match the proposed Regulation Standards:

- Supervised Practice
- Postgraduate Training
- In the Public Interest
- Teaching or Research

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