



Communiqué

Twenty-second meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 26 August 2011

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.

This communiqué highlights key issues from the Board's August meeting. At this meeting the Board considered a number of issues including a standardised process across all National Board in relation to Limited registration, succession planning for National Boards, an update on Health Workforce Australia's work program and a standardised process in relation to form development.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on 16 September 2011 in Sydney, to coincide with the National registration and Accreditation Scheme Annual Conference 2011. The Chairs of the Board's Registration and Notification Committees (or their representatives) will also attend the Board meeting and conference proceedings.

Update on the Board's Interim Policy regarding Limited Registration in the Public Interest

The Board reconsidered the Interim Policy Limited Registration in the Public Interest which it published in July 2011. Limited registration in the public interest is an all-purpose subtype of limited registration.

Limited registration in the public interest is for dental practitioners who do not qualify for general or specialist registration, but in order to undertake practise in Australia are required, under the National Law, to be registered by the Board. These dental practitioners will usually be visiting from overseas for a short period and hold relevant qualifications in the division of dental practitioners and want to undertake, for example; clinical presentations, assist in an unexpected situation where a natural disaster has occurred or a pandemic was declared where dental practitioners were urgently needed, or fill a short term locum position or a short term exchange of practice with a dental practitioner.

In order to grant Limited registration in the public interest the Board must be satisfied that it is in the public interest for the dental practitioner to practise the profession given the dental practitioner's qualifications and experience.

In reconsidering the Interim Policy published in July 2011, the Board has agreed to remove the following wording (indicated below) from the policy which is applicable until 30 June 2012:

Overseas qualified dental practitioners, ~~not eligible for general registration in Australia~~, are not required to have limited registration in the public interest where they are making a presentation, speaking or lecturing which does not involve (hands on) clinical practice. The overseas qualified dental practitioners must not:

- a. *undertake clinical practice or supervise dental practitioners in any capacity in Australia;*
or
- b. *use a protected title under the National Law or hold themselves out as a registered dental practitioner in Australia.*

Limited Registration - Nationally consistent approach

All the National Boards considered a paper on a nationally consistent approach to all categories of Limited registration. The Board acknowledged that while there were specific requirements for some health professions in relation to Limited registration, there was also the opportunity to establish some consistency across National Boards. This will assist in both the broader public and health professionals understanding and AHPRA's operationalisation of Limited registration. Further advice will follow in the upcoming months.

Current and recent consultations

The Board currently has the draft *Guideline - Conscious Sedation Area of Practice Endorsement* out for consultation. The draft Guideline provides further detail for registrants in relation to the specific practice requirements of the Registration standard for Endorsement in Relation to Conscious Sedation - **Responses are due by 7 October 2011.**

The consultation period on the *Definition of 'practice'* – closed on 20 August 2011. The seven National Boards (Chiropractic, Dental, Medical, Optometry, Osteopathy, Podiatry and Physiotherapy) involved in this process will consider all responses in the coming months.

Renewal of dental practitioner registration

The renewal period of registration for dental practitioners across Australia is due to commence shortly with renewal of registration required by **30 November 2011** – the new annual renewal date for the profession under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. This registration renewal cycle will mean that all dental practitioners in Australia will then be aligned and annual registration renewal will be due by 30 November each year.

The Board encourages dental practitioners to both:

- check the National Register of Dental practitioners published online at www.dentalboard.gov.au to confirm their registration expiry date; and
- make sure their contact details supplied to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), including email and telephone, are correct and current.

The best way to search the register is by name and profession. Ensuring this information is up to date will allow AHPRA to send dental practitioners renewal reminders.

The Board also wanted to remind dental practitioners that under the National Law, all registered dental practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time each year and there is no option for AHPRA or the National Board to renew your registration after it has lapsed without a new application.

John Lockwood
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
2 September 2011