



## Communiqué

### Twenty-fourth meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 28 October 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 the key issues from the Board's October meeting and a number of other matters the Board would like to highlight to dental practitioners.

#### Annual Report

In accordance with the requirements of the National Law, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has released its 2010-11 Annual Report. The report can be found at: [www.ahpra.gov.au/News/2011-11-1-AHPRA-annual-report-released.aspx](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/News/2011-11-1-AHPRA-annual-report-released.aspx). The Board has also released a statement in relation to the Annual Report which can be found at the same link.

The Annual Report details the finances and performance of the Board and AHPRA over the period. The Annual Report also provides a first-ever insight into Australia's 530,115 health practitioners across 10 professions regulated under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) including the 18,319 dental practitioners registered to practise in Australia.

#### Board Newsletter

The Board is about to release its first newsletter. The newsletter is in electronic version and will be published on the Board's website at the **News and Updates** page ([www.dentalboard.gov.au/News.aspx](http://www.dentalboard.gov.au/News.aspx)). An email will be sent to all dental practitioners with email addresses held by the Board (91% of dental practitioners) notifying them of the Newsletter's availability and providing a website link to it.

#### Pro-rata calculation of CPD hours

The Board's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Registration Standard states that when a person registers for the first time or is restored to the register, the number of CPD hours to be completed will be calculated on a pro rata basis according to a formula published by the Board.

The Board has agreed a formula which is now published on the Board's website at: [www.dentalboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/Policies-Codes-Guidelines.aspx](http://www.dentalboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/Policies-Codes-Guidelines.aspx). **Please note:** This formula is only relevant for dental practitioners who register for the first time or have registration restored after it has lapsed within the Board agreed CPD cycle which is **1 July 2010 to 30 June 2013**.

#### Return to Practice / Recency of Practice Working Group

The Board has established a Working Group to consider and make recommendations to the Board in relation to dental practitioners wanting to return to practice and more generally dental practitioners who do not meet the Board's Recency of Practice Registration Standard. The key goal of the Working Group is to establish a nationally consistent approach to this issue balancing the safety of the public and the needs of individual dental practitioners.

#### Dental Prosthetist Forum

The Board in collaboration with the Australian Dental Council (ADC) held a forum on 14 October 2011 for **current** dental prosthetist education providers to provide guidance on the accreditation requirements of the National Law and the general process of accreditation and the expectations of the Board and the ADC. The Board would like to thank all attendees for a successful day!

### Expert Reference Group – Therapeutics and other matters

The Board has agreed to establish an Expert Reference Group to consider matters relating to the possession, administration, supply and prescription of restricted drugs and other matters by dental practitioners. Once established, the Board will request the Group to review relevant Interim Policies. The Board will undertake the necessary consultation with respect to the agreed recommendations as required by the National Law.

### Recent and current consultation:

- **Finalisation of the Limited Registration – Registration Standards**

The Board has finalised the Limited Registration – Registration Standards for *Postgraduate Training or Supervised Practice* (section 66); and *Teaching or Research* (section 69). These finalised Limited Registration – Registration Standards have been forwarded to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for consideration, in accordance with the requirements of section 12 of the National Law.

- **Finalisation of the Supervision Guidelines**

The finalised *Supervision Guidelines for dental practitioners with Limited Registration* are now on the Board's website. Limited registrants seeking renewal of limited registration will be required to comply with the Guidelines (particularly in relation to annual reporting) when they **renew in 2012**. For 2011 it is expected that dental practitioners are working towards compliance with the Guidelines.

- **Finalisation of the Guideline - Conscious Sedation Area of Practice Endorsement Supervision**

The Board is in the process of considering the feedback to the consultation on the draft Guideline - Conscious Sedation Area of Practice Endorsement Supervision. The Guideline will be finalised in the upcoming months and released on the Board's website.

- **Current Consultation - Definition of Practice**

The Board is in the process of consultation on the *Definition of Practice*. Submissions on the definition of "practice" are due by **2 December 2011**. Seven of the 10 National Boards (Chiropractic, Dental, Medical, Optometry, Osteopathy, Podiatry and Physiotherapy) are currently undertaking this consultation.

### Renewal of conscious sedation endorsement

The Board has again considered and re-clarified the requirements for dentists wishing to renew their conscious sedation endorsement. For dentists wishing to renew their conscious sedation endorsement **next year (2012)** the Board has mandated that a certified certificate of completion of an approved refresher course would be accepted for renewal if the date of the course was from **1 December 2011 to 30 November 2012**. For the subsequent years the same principle will apply - 1 December (of the previous year) to 30 November of the current year in which they are seeking to renew. There is a general expectation that an approved refresher course is undertaken yearly.

### Renewal of dental practitioner registration

The Board again reminds all dental practitioners that the *November Renewal Campaign* has commenced with renewal of registration required by **30 November 2011** – reminders to renew are being emailed to registrants (where AHPRA holds a current email address).

The Board again reminds 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 Board to renew your registration after it has lapsed without a new application**.

John Lockwood  
Chair, Dental Board of Australia  
10 November 2011