



Communiqué

Twenty-ninth meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 20 April 2012

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 meeting held in April 2012.

Registration Standards and Guidelines for consultation

The Board has now published the following Registration Standards which have been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC):

- General Registration for overseas-qualified dental practitioners
- Limited Registration for Postgraduate Training or Supervised Practice
- Limited Registration for Teaching or Research

Linked to the above Registration Standard for Limited Registration for Postgraduate Training or Supervised Practice, the Board has released draft Guidelines on Limited Registration for consultation on the Board's website <http://www.dentalboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx>. The Board is inviting submissions **by close of business on Friday 15 June 2012**.

Revised Supervision guidelines

As advised in the March 2012 the Board has now released a revised draft Supervision guidelines for consultation on the Board's website at <http://www.dentalboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx>. The revised draft Supervision guidelines are a further development of the current Board Supervision Guidelines. The Board is requesting that respondents focus submissions on the key differences from the current Guidelines and the new revised draft Guidelines. The Board is inviting submissions **by close of business on Friday 29 June 2012**.

When it is necessary to be Registered

The Board has now released the statement regarding *When it is necessary to be registered as a dental practitioner?* on the Board's website at <http://www.dentalboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/FAQ.aspx>. The Board has also amended its Interim Policy - Public Interest Limited Registration – Registration of Overseas Speakers to reflect that this new statement is now relevant when considering the need for registration of overseas speakers.

National criteria for specialist recognition and area of practice endorsements

NOVA Public Policy has been contracted by the Health Workforce Principal Committee (HWPC) to undertake a project to develop a uniform national set of criteria which could be applied to future National Boards' proposals for specialty recognition and approval of areas of practice for purposes of endorsement. The intent is that the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) would use the national criteria to assess proposals made by National Boards under the national registration and accreditation scheme (NRAS).

NOVA Public Policy is currently undertaking consultation on the draft criteria and the National Board (in conjunction with all of the NRAS National Boards) will provide feedback. Other relevant dental organisations are encouraged to provide feedback.

Social Media Policy

The Board provided input into a draft policy for all Boards on social media which will be released shortly for public consultation. The policy, which was considered by all National Boards, confirms that health practitioners must abide by the relevant laws, the Board's Code of Conduct and the Guidelines for the Advertising of Regulated Health Services guidelines when they use social media. In particular, health practitioners are advised:

- to meet their professional obligations
- to ensure that they do not breach their patient's confidentiality or privacy
- to present information in an unbiased, evidence informed context and not make unsubstantiated claims and
- not use testimonials or purported testimonials.

The Board will invite feedback on the draft policy when it is released on behalf of all National Boards.

Australian National Guidelines for the Management of Health Care Workers known to be infected with Blood-Borne Viruses

The Board noted that the Communicable Diseases Network Australia have now finalized and published the *Guidelines for Health Care Workers with Blood Borne Viruses* <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-cdna-bloodborne.htm>. The Board supported the Guidelines and agreed to amend its *Guidelines on infection control* and undertake consultation with key stakeholders on the proposed amendment in the upcoming months.

Board Newsletter

The Board is finalising the content for its next Newsletter to be released in late May 2012. The Board has agreed to publish two Newsletters per annum (in May and September). The September 2011 Newsletter was well received, with a high proportion of dental practitioners opening the September newsletter which was emailed to them. The Board encourages all dental practitioners to provide AHPRA with a current email contact address by updating their contact details through online services. This will enable AHPRA to contact dental practitioners about important registration information and the National Board to contact dental practitioners with important updates for the profession.

John Lockwood
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
2 May 2012