



Media release

17 August 2012

The Dental Board of Australia welcomes the public release of a report on scope of practice for oral health practitioners

The Dental Board of Australia (the National Board) has today welcomed the release of a report by Health Workforce Australia (HWA) on its review of roles and scope of practice of dental therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists.

The release of this document makes public the findings of the HWA and provides greater transparency for the community and practitioners. The HWA undertook this work on behalf of the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC).

On 23 May 2012 the AHWMC wrote to the National Board advising that it had **noted** the HWA report and provided a copy to the Board. The National Board requested AHWMC to publicly release the HWA report as its findings are of benefit to the profession and community.

The National Board has established a Scope of Practice Review Committee that includes representatives of all dental practitioner divisions. The committee met for the first time in July 2012 to provide advice to the National Board and to steer the review of the *Scope of practice registration standard* over the next 12 months. This review is part of the review of all registration standards, across professions, in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme in 2013.

As a part of the National Board's review of the *Scope of practice registration standard* it will consult with both the profession and the community. At the end of the review and consultation process, the National Board may make recommendations regarding the registration standard to state and territory health ministers.

All dental practitioners must meet the Board's *Scope of practice registration standard*. The standard, which came in to effect in 2010 after being approved by Australia's state and territory health ministers, is one of the registration standards that all dental practitioners must meet to be registered.

Background

The Dental Board of Australia (the National Board) undertakes functions as set by the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). The Board regulates the practice of dentistry in Australia, and one of its key roles is to protect the public by ensuring that only health practitioners who are suitably qualified to practice in a competent and ethical manner are registered.

For more information

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