

## Media release

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1 November 2013

### 2012/13 National Scheme Annual Report published

The 2012/13 Annual Report of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the National Boards has been published.

The report details the work of the National Boards and AHPRA in implementing the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme over the 12 months to 30 June 2013.

There are now more than 590,000 health practitioners registered to practise in Australia – an increase in all professions and more than ever before – with one in 20 working Australians a registered health practitioner.

‘The National Scheme has a significant impact on the lives of many Australians – directly on all health practitioners who are registered to practise, and indirectly through our work to protect public safety and maintain professional standards,’ AHPRA Agency Management Committee Chair Peter Allen said.

‘The ongoing, effective functioning of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme is a reflection of the partnership and collaboration between AHPRA and the National Boards,’ Mr Allen said.

For the dental profession the report reveals that:

- 19,912 dental practitioners were registered at the end of June 2013, an increase of 8.7 per cent since national registration data was first published in June 2011
- 1,052 notifications (concerns/complaints) were received about dental practitioners and of these 586 were lodged outside of NSW where there is a co-regulatory system<sup>1</sup>
- 1,075 notifications were closed nationally by 30 June 2013, 522 of these were managed outside of NSW
- of the 522 cases closed under the National Scheme, practitioners were fined in two cases. Of the remainder, the Dental Board of Australia determined to:
  - take no further action or that the case was to be handled by the relevant health complaints entity who initially received the notification or referred to another body for action in 422 cases
  - caution or reprimand the practitioner in 64 cases, and
  - impose conditions on a dental practitioner’s registration or accept an undertaking in 34 cases.
- the Board established an Oral Surgery Panel to provide advice to the Board on the specialty of oral surgery, and

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<sup>1</sup> NSW is part of the National Scheme but notifications about practitioners’ health, performance and conduct are handled by the [HCCC](#) and the NSW health professional councils supported by the [HPCA](#).

- *Guidelines on supervision for dental practitioners* were finalised and published after consultation.

Dental Board of Australia Chair, Dr John Lockwood AM, said effective and fair regulation was the constant goal of all National Boards.

‘Every decision National Boards make consciously focuses on striking the right balance between public safety and facilitating access to health services,’ Dr Lockwood said.

‘This report explains the work we do, and accounts to the community and the health professions about how we do it,’ he said.

The annual report is published on the [AHPRA website](#) under *Legislation and publications*.

It includes a detailed report – including data – for the Dental Board of Australia.

A media release about the report – with data across professions and jurisdictions – is published on the [AHPRA website](#).

#### *For more information*

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