



Communiqué

Thirty seventh meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 14 December 2012

The Dental Board of Australia (the Dental Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (National Law). This communiqué highlights key issues from the Dental Board meeting held in December 2012. The Dental Board held a planning session the day prior to the meeting to review and consider its functions for the upcoming year.

Review of accreditation functions

The National Law requires National Boards to review the arrangements for the exercise of its accreditation functions no later than 30 June 2013. These arrangements have been in place since before the commencement of the National Law when the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council appointed the Australian Dental Council the accreditation authority for dental practitioners under the National Scheme from 1 July 2010 for three years.

The Dental Board released a public consultation paper the *Review of accreditation arrangements for dental practitioners* (the consultation paper) on 30 October 2012. Since the release of the consultation paper the Dental Board has been advised by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) that it has reviewed and made changes to its list of Stakeholder Organisations.

The Dental Board agreed that as it was currently undertaking public consultation with respect to its ongoing accreditation arrangements, that an addendum should be added to the consultation paper and the public and key stakeholders be given the opportunity to comment on the changes made by the ADC.

The consultation paper and the addendum to the consultation paper can be found on the Dental Board website at www.dentalboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx and the consultation period has been extended until 21 December 2012.

Expert Reference Group – Therapeutics

The Expert Reference Group – Therapeutics met in late November 2012. The Expert Reference Group – Therapeutics was established to provide the Dental Board with advice in relation to key matters and issues regarding therapeutics.

Expert Reference Group – Specialist

The Expert Reference Group – Specialist met in late November 2012. The Expert Reference Group – Specialist was established to provide advice to the Dental Board across all specialist areas and to provide expertise in considering the upcoming review of the Specialist Registration Standard.

Registration renewal

The Board is pleased to advise that 96 percent of dental practitioners submitted their application for renewal of registration to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) on time and over 93 percent of these were on line. These dental practitioners have either been registered to practise until 30 November 2013 or their application is still in assessment.

Dental practitioners who are awaiting confirmation that their registration has been renewed are still able to practise while their application is assessed. Their name remains listed on the national Register of Dental Practitioners.

Any dental practitioner who does not contact AHPRA before close of business on 31 December 2012 must be removed from the national Register of Dental Practitioners (the deadline to renew has been extended in line with AHPRA policy). The registration of any dental practitioner who does not apply in time will lapse and they will not be able to practise in Australia as a dental practitioner until a new application has been approved. A fast track re-registration process will be available during January 2013 to facilitate easy restoration to the register.

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

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.

Dental Board website

The Dental Board continues to encourage all dental practitioners to regularly check the Dental Board's website at www.dentalboard.gov.au for information and updates relating to the dental profession.

The Dental Board wishes all dental practitioners and stakeholders season's greetings and best wishes for the New Year!

John Lockwood AM
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
23 December 2012