



Communiqué

Fortieth meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 19 April 2013

The Dental Board of Australia (the National 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's April meeting.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Continuing professional development (CPD) cycle ends 30 June 2013

The National Board reminds all dental practitioners that, consistent with the CPD registration standard, all dental practitioners must complete a minimum of 60 hours of CPD activities over three years. The current CPD cycle **ends on 30 June 2013** (it began on 1 July 2010). The National Board encourages all professional associations/groups to remind dental practitioners of the Board's requirement to meet CPD obligations by this date.

Review of accreditation functions

As advised in previous communiqués, the National Board is currently reviewing the Board's accreditation functions. The National Board has considered the feedback received to the public consultation on the review of accreditation functions, which was closed late in 2012.

The National Board will finalise its decision about the review of accreditation functions in the weeks ahead and will keep stakeholders informed of its decision.

Review of standards, guidelines and codes

The National Board continues to review the registration standards, guidelines and codes that were developed before the National Scheme commenced. A very important part of this process is consultation.

The National Board undertakes two phases of consultation; preliminary and public. During preliminary consultation the National Board releases the paper to key stakeholders, which allows it to 'road test' the feasibility of proposed changes as well as consider feedback that may be incorporated for the following phase. Public consultations are widely communicated in the National Board's communiqués and website, and open to everyone.

The consultation about the National Board's specific registration standards, codes and guidelines will begin with preliminary consultation and public consultation later in the year.

The National Board invites all interested practitioners, members of the community and other stakeholders to provide feedback to the consultations.

For details about when these consultations will open, please check the National Board's website and future communiqués.

The National Board is now consulting on a proposed draft social media policy, code of conduct and on proposed revisions to the guidelines on advertising and mandatory reporting. The consultation is open until 30 May 2013. All feedback is welcome.

Advertising

While issues in a broader sense, relating to dental practitioner advertising have been considered on several occasions by the National Board since the commencement of the National Scheme, notifications have been managed on behalf of the National Board by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

The ongoing issues with respect to advertising by dental practitioners are of particular concern to the National Board and it has agreed that a Taskforce Dental Advertising group (the Taskforce) be established. The Taskforce will comprise members of the National Board and AHPRA staff with relevant legal backgrounds and will meet as appropriate to discuss and make recommendations to the National Board on the AHPRA approach to the management of notifications on advertising matters.

The National Board reminds all dental practitioners that they are responsible for the content of all advertising material associated with the provision of their goods/service, regardless of the type of media used to advertise and should ensure that advertising is compliant with the requirements of the National Law and Advertising Guidelines.

Review of the scope of practice registration standard

The National Board's Scope of Practice Registration Standard Review Committee met on 19 April 2013 to review the feedback from the preliminary consultation to the National Board's revised draft of the *Scope of practice registration standard* and draft *Scope of practice guideline*.

After consideration of the feedback received, the National Board will release a revised draft of the *Scope of practice registration standard* and draft *Scope of practice guideline* for public consultation during May.

National conference

The National Board will hold its inaugural national conference in May 2013. This will be the first time that members of the National Board and state and territory committees of the National Board will have the opportunity to meet in one place, together with participants from the Dental Council of New South Wales and senior staff from AHPRA and the Health Professional Councils Authority. The meeting aims to reflect on the last three years of national regulation, plan for future regulatory challenges and provide a unique insight into the needs and opportunities to continue to build the working relationships between these bodies.

National Board website

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

Updating contact details

The National 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 AM
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
30 April 2013