



## Communiqué

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The 69<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Friday 20 November in the National Office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in Melbourne.

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the Board's meeting as well as other important information.

We publish this communiqué on our website and email it to a broad range of stakeholders. We encourage you to distribute it widely to colleagues and interested parties. This includes distributing it to the different levels in the organisation that you work in.

### Annual planning

The Board held its annual planning session the afternoon before the Board meeting. As well as reflecting on the work done over the past year the session allowed us to plan the work over the coming years.

The regulatory work plan that we review on an annual basis is provided in summary form in the annual Health Professions Agreement (HPA). The HPA sets out the partnership between the Board and AHPRA, and the services AHPRA will provide in supporting us to carry out our functions. The 2015/16 HPA has recently been published [here](#).

In our planning we work closely with AHPRA and the other National Boards to ensure that the work that we need to do as regulators of the dental profession can be achieved. We also consider if it is work that can be done in collaboration with other National Boards to support consistency in regulatory policy across the professions.

We will continue to [consult](#) widely both within and outside of the dental professions as we progress the items on our plan.

### Have you renewed your registration yet?

Dental practitioners have until 30 November 2015 to renew their registration to avoid paying a late fee.

AHPRA, on behalf of the Board, has sent a series of email and hard copy reminders about this to practitioners. If you are a registered dental practitioner with general, specialist or non-practising registration and have not received a reminder to renew your registration, you should phone AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Renewal applications received by AHPRA after the registration expiry date will incur a late payment fee in addition to the annual renewal fee.

If your application for renewal is received on time, or during the following one month late period, you can continue practising while your application is processed.

If you do not apply to renew your registration by 31 December 2015 it will lapse. This will mean that your name will be removed from the [Register of Dental Practitioners](#) and you will not be able to practise your profession in Australia.

### National drug screening protocol

AHPRA and the National Boards have published information on a National drug screening protocol that comes into effect in November 2015.

This will mean that all dental practitioners who have restrictions placed on their registration by the Board as a result of past substance misuse will have routine quarterly hair testing, in addition to random urine testing.

The introduction of routine hair testing is based on expert advice about modern screening methods. Routine hair testing helps provide comprehensive information about the use – over time – of a wide range of drugs (not just based on the practitioner's drug taking history).

These restrictions are generally designed to keep the public safe while the practitioner remains in practice. The national protocol supports the monitoring of these practitioners to make sure they are complying with the restrictions.

The drug screening protocol is part of a wider, national strategy to effectively manage compliance and monitoring across the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. More information is in the [statement](#) published on the Board's website.

### **2014/15 Annual report has been published**

The 2014/15 National Scheme annual report, including a report from the Board, 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 2015.

The annual report is published at [www.ahpra.gov.au/annualreport/2015](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/annualreport/2015). 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](#). A report, which presents the data specific to dental practitioners, will be published on the Board's website before the end of the calendar year.

We will be publishing dental specific and individual state and territory reports in coming weeks. We will let you know when these are released.

### **Revised standards for all dental practitioners published**

Revised registration standards for continuing professional development (CPD) and recency of practice were been published by the Board in late October 2015.

To help dental practitioners prepare for commencement, the revised standards are being published in advance.

The revised standards come into effect on 1 December and will replace the standards that are currently in place. They will apply to all dental practitioners who will need to meet the obligations of the revised standards by the next registration renewal period on 30 November 2016.

The requirement of 60 hours of CPD activities over a three-year CPD cycle has not changed. The three year CPD cycle has moved from 1 July - 30 June to 1 December - 30 November to align with the renewal of registration cycle.

The revised Recency of practice registration standard has not fundamentally changed. It has been reformatted and reworded to assist registrants and applicants to understand and comply with this standard.

The Board will be publishing a revised professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements standard soon, which will be in effect from early 2016.

Find out more on the [DBA website](#).

### **Are your contact details up to date?**

In coming weeks we will be sending out latest e-newsletter to all those dental practitioners for whom we AHPRA has an email address.

AHPRA will also be sending out the final renewal notices in coming days and contacting those practitioners who have not yet renewed.

So that you received this important information you need to check that we have your correct contact details.

You can check your details via the [Login icon](#) at the top right of the AHPRA website.

Email accounts need to be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

John Lockwood AM  
**Chair, Dental Board of Australia**  
27 November 2015