

**From:** [Peter Mack](#)  
**To:** [dentalboardconsultation](#)  
**Subject:** Forensic Odontology Response  
**Date:** Thursday, 21 January 2016 2:26:47 PM

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**General information about your submission**

<b>Who is the submission from?</b>	Dr Peter MACK MDS BDS FDS.RCS DRD.RCS  Associate Professor Forensic Science University of Western Australia.  Royal Air Force (retired) <i>Forensic Training &amp; Disaster Management Competence.</i>
<b>If we need to follow up with someone, who should we contact?</b>	As Above
<b>Would you like your submission published on the Board's website?</b>	If consistent with protocol for submissions.

**Feedback template**

<b>Specific consultation questions and section for responses</b>
<b>Do you understand the reason why we have developed the proposed competencies and how we are going to use them?</b>
Yes
Development is clearly for administration and control plus future improvement of quality of research, training, operation and management of personnel and facilities, both to manage financial costs and to respond to specific social and clinical needs.
<b>Forensic Odontology</b>
Yes
<b>Comments</b>

Historically, for Forensic Odontology, there have been few or no formal training programmes.

Those that do exist are extremely variable in the quality of programmes provided.

Most senior workers in the field are specialised in other areas and have developed their FO skills over time, but have no specific FO qualifications. A 'grandfather' clause is essential, but my personal experience is such that I have severe doubts as to the integrity of those who may be asked to adjudicate.

The competence, skills and management of those at present in formal FO positions is extremely variable.

Many FO providers act without reference to possible future needs, do not provide an adequate basic service and would be incompetent in any major disaster situation.

In some geographic areas the existing authorities are totally unwilling to accept existing senior specialists as part of a team or to train those wishing to become competent in the speciality.

**We are proposing that the competencies be reviewed in five years time with the option to review earlier if needed. Do you agree?**

No

Comments

For existing specialities a review at a maximum of 3 years would be preferable.

For new specialities 1 year for the first review, then 2 years, then standardised to 3 years.

**Do you have any other comments?**

**The provision of trained specialists, of adequate standard and number, must be an essential and major component of Disaster Management in Australia. My experience for the past 20 years has been that there not only no interest in the provision of a logical and competent system, but that there has been active denial of the need for such an instrument.**

**Offers to assist with or to provide, manage and maintain such a facility have been uniformly denigrated. I understand that for the clinical Forensic Specialties incompetence and mismanagement has been accepted as the Australian Standard.**