



Communiqué

August 2018 meeting of the Dental Board of Australia

The 99th meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Friday 24 August 2018 at the National Office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

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 to colleagues and interested parties, including in the organisation you work in.

Public consultation on the proposal to close the Public Sector Dental Workforce Scheme

We're interested in what you think of the Board's proposal to close the Public Sector Dental Workforce Scheme (PSDWS) and the retirement of the associated guideline.

The PSDWS was established in 2005 by state and territory health ministers in response to a shortage of dentists at that time. The consultation paper explores whether there remains a need to maintain the pathway given the growth in new graduates, the decline in PSDWS registrants (currently only four dentists in the pathway) and other registration pathways open to overseas trained dentists.

The Board recognises there will need to be a transition phase to ensure that current PSDWS registrants are provided with sufficient notice of any proposed changes.

Your feedback

Public consultation is an important part of the Board's engagement with the profession. The feedback you provide is greatly valued and informs the Board's development of regulatory documents.

The public consultation paper is published on the Board's website under [Current Consultations](#).

You are invited to provide feedback by email to dentalboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au by close of business on 2 November 2018.

Quarterly registration data released

The Board has released its quarterly registration data. You can find the latest report and other statistics on the [Board's website](#).

Dental Board of Australia fees set for 2018/19

The Board has announced the national registration fees for dental practitioners for 2018/19.

A [full fee schedule](#), including the fee arrangements for practitioners whose principal place of practice is NSW, is published on the Board's website.

Practitioners' registration fees fund the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

Fees support the Board in the continual development of a safe and mobile Australian workforce for health practitioners and the public in the most efficient ways possible. It also allows the Board to facilitate the provision of high-quality education and training for practitioners.

AHPRA to conduct pilot audit on advertising compliance in early 2019

A pilot audit to check health practitioner compliance with advertising requirements will be conducted by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in early 2019.

Random audits of advertising compliance will advance a risk-based approach to enforcing the National Law's¹ advertising requirements and facilitate compliance by all registered health practitioners who advertise their services.

The National Boards for chiropractic and dental are taking part in the pilot audit.

The pilot audit has been modelled on the well established approach to auditing compliance with core registration standards and involves adding an extra declaration about advertising compliance when chiropractors and dental practitioners apply for renewal of registration in 2018. (The National Law¹ enables a National Board to require any other reasonable information² to be included with a renewal application.)

Dental practitioners who are renewing non-practising registration and those who have contacted AHPRA in response to a complaint about their advertising in the past 12 months will **not** be included in the audit sample.

The pilot will not delay a decision on the application for renewal.

The audit will be carried out by AHPRA's Advertising Compliance Team from January 2019 and will involve a random sample of dental practitioners who renewed their registration in 2018.

One of the audit's main objectives is to analyse the rate of advertising compliance for those health practitioners who advertise and who have not been the subject of an advertising complaint in the past 12 months.

A pilot audit report including data analysis and recommendations will be prepared for National Boards to consider the pilot outcomes and implications for future compliance work.

For information about your advertising obligations see the advertising resources page at www.ahpra.gov.au/Publications/Advertising-resources.aspx.

Consultation – proposed reforms to the National Law

Australia's Health Ministers are consulting on some proposed reforms to the National Law, which provides the framework for health practitioner regulation in Australia.

The Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) is leading the consultation, in the second stage of the reform process. The first amendments in *The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017* have already been made and are now being implemented.

More information about the reform process, a summary of the proposed changes and the consultation paper 'Regulation of Australia's health professions: keeping the National Law up to date and fit for purpose' is available on the [COAG Health Council website](#).

Submissions can be sent to NRAS.consultation@dhhs.vic.gov.au. The consultation closes Wednesday 31 October 2018.

Are your contact details up to date?

It is important that your contact details are up to date to receive renewal reminders from AHPRA and information from the Board. 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.

Conclusion

The National Board publishes a range of information about registration and the National Board's expectations of practitioners on its website at www.dentalboard.gov.au or www.ahpra.gov.au.

For more information or help with questions about your registration please send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

John Lockwood AM
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
11 September 2018

¹ The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

² Section 107(4)(e) of the National Law