



Communiqué

November 2018 meeting of the Dental Board of Australia

The 102nd meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Friday 30 November 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.

Annual regulatory planning

The Board held its annual planning session as part of the November Board meeting. As well as reflecting on the work completed over the past year the session allowed us to plan work for next year.

The Board has identified several new and ongoing priorities and over the coming months will develop a work plan for 2019-20. The Board's will publish the work plan on its website as part of the next Health Profession Agreement (HPA) between AHPRA and the Board.

When planning its regulatory work, the Board works closely with AHPRA and the other National Boards to ensure that the work that the Board needs to carry out, as regulators of the dental profession, is achieved.

The Board also considers if appropriate work should be done in collaboration with other National Boards to support consistency in regulatory policy across the 16 regulated health professions.

Closure of the Public Sector Dental Workforce Scheme

The Board's public consultation on its proposal to close the Public Sector Dental Workforce Scheme (PSDWS) and retire the associated guideline closed on 2 November 2018.

The Board thanks all registrants and stakeholders who took the time to provide a submission. The submissions will be published soon (except those made in confidence) on the Board's [Past consultations](#) page.

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

The Board received a small number of submissions with the option to close the PSDWS supported by most respondents. Based on this feedback, the Board has decided to close the PSDWS on 1 January 2020.

The Board will work closely with the small number of current PSDWS registrants and other relevant stakeholders to co-ordinate the transition.

Graduating soon? Watch the Board's video and apply now

Are you about to graduate soon and start your career as a dental practitioner? If the answer is yes, the Board has developed a video to help you when you register with the Board for the first time.

The Board's main role is to protect the public by setting standards, codes and guidelines for dental practitioners to meet to practice the profession in Australia.

Graduates need to be registered as a dental practitioner with the Board before they start practising. The video, which is available on the [Board's website](#), explains to students the importance of meeting their regulatory obligations so they are all set for the next phase of their career journey.

For more information go to [Graduate applications](#) on the AHPRA website to apply online and for links to FAQ. For registration enquiries or difficulties in accessing the online application form: 1300 419 495 (within Australia).

AHPRA and National Boards welcome release of the Accreditation Systems Review final report

AHPRA and National Boards have welcomed the publication of the Independent Accreditation Systems Review final report.

The Independent Accreditation Systems Review's (the Review) [final report](#) makes significant, far reaching recommendations to reform the accreditation system for regulated health professions in Australia. It proposes recommendations which range from relatively uncontentious and which the National Scheme bodies generally support, to those which are significantly more complex and contentious.

Health Ministers commissioned the Review following a [review of the National Scheme](#) as a whole.

For more information read the [statement](#) on the AHPRA website.

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.

Dr Murray Thomas
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
3 December 2018