



Communiqué

October 2019 meeting of the Dental Board of Australia

The 112th meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Thursday 24 October 2019 in Melbourne.

At the meeting the Board was joined by the Chair and Executive Officer from the Dental Council of New South Wales and Chairs of the Board's Registration and Notification Committees. Common issues and shared current and upcoming work were discussed. All agreed that joint meetings are key to our strong relationship and would remain an important engagement activity.

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

Dental Board of Australia national conference

The Board held its fourth national conference on 25 October 2019. It provided an opportunity to bring together National Board members, state and territory committee members, AHPRA staff and key regulatory colleagues. The Board welcomed representatives from the Dental Council of NSW and the Health Professional Authority Council and the Australian Dental Council.

This year's conference aimed to encourage cross-professional learning with those regulating the dental profession through shared ideas, innovations and networking, and to better understand and respond to our wider regulatory environment.

The Board's keynote speaker was Ms Gail Furness SC who led a highly informative plenary session on *What are the expectations of decision-makers today?*

A range of informative sessions covered cultural safety, hot topics in accreditation and workforce and an update on current notifications work, along with sessions promoting professional practice and engagement to support sound and ethical regulatory decision-making.

The conference gave attendees opportunities to engage in discussing and sharing ideas. Attendees were able to work together and deepen their understanding of the roles and responsibilities in the regulation of dental practitioners and their contribution to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Scope of practice update

In March 2019 Health Ministers referred the Board's proposed revised *Scope of practice registration standard* (the standard) to the [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](#) (the Commission) in March 2019. The purpose of the referral was for the Commission to independently assess the patient quality, patient safety implications and the consumer benefit of the revised standard. The Commission reported back to Health Ministers in July 2019.

The Board noted that Health Ministers would consider the report Commission's independent review and the standard at their 31 October and 1 November meeting.

The Board is continuing its engagement work to support the implementation of the proposed revised registration standard and will keep dental practitioners informed as this work progresses.

Continuing professional Development cycle

The current continuing professional development (CPD) cycle will end on 30 November 2019.

CPD is the means by which dental practitioners maintain, improve and broaden their knowledge, expertise and competence, and develop the personal and professional qualities required throughout their professional lives.

Dental practitioners are required to meet the Board's [Registration standard: continuing professional development](#) by completing a minimum of 60 hours of CPD activities over a three-year CPD cycle:

- a minimum of 48 of the 60 hours (80 per cent) must be spent on clinically or scientifically based activities, and
- a maximum of 12 of the 60 hours (20 per cent) can be spent on non-scientific activities.

Meeting this registration standard is a requirement of registration for all dental practitioners. During the annual registration renewal process all dental practitioners must declare that they have met this standard.

Compliance with this standard may be audited from time to time.

The next CPD cycle will start on 1 December 2019 to 30 November 2022. Further information about CPD is available on the [Board's website](#).

Reminder registration renewal due by 30 November

Dental practitioners wishing to renew their registration on time are reminded that they must do so by 30 November 2019.

More than 23,500 dental practitioners hold general, specialist or non-practising registration with the Dental Board of Australia. The quickest and easiest way to renew is [online](#).

Practitioners who do not apply to renew their registration by 31 December 2019 will have lapsed registration. They will be removed from the Register of Dental Practitioners and will not be able to practise their profession in Australia.

Renewal applications received in December will incur a late payment fee in addition to the annual renewal fee. This is outlined in the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). Further information about renewal is available on the [Board's website](#).

Changes to renewal questions about working with blood-borne viruses

As discussed in the October communiqué, each year at registration renewal, dental practitioners are asked to declare that they are aware of their infection status for blood-borne viruses and comply with the requirements of the Australian national guidelines for the management of healthcare workers living with blood borne viruses and healthcare workers who perform exposure prone procedures at risk of exposure to blood borne viruses (the CDNA guidelines) and the Board's *Guidelines on infection control*.

Dental practitioners are reminded that the CDNA guidelines have recently been revised, so the Board has updated its compliance questions for this year's registration renewal. Further information about what is changing is available on the [Board's website](#).

Where do I go for more information about the CDNA guidelines?

The CDNA guidelines and helpful resources are available on the Department of Health [website](#). If practitioners are uncertain about whether they perform EPPs, they should contact their employer or professional association for further guidance.

Feedback invited on important consultations

The public consultations asking for people to have their say on revised guidance to help practitioners and others understand their obligations when advertising a regulated health service and to support a responsive and risk-based approach to supervised practice are still open.

The Board is conducting the consultations alongside other National Boards and AHPRA on:

- revised *Guidelines on advertising regulated health services*, and
- a proposed *Supervised practice framework*.

The public consultation on mandatory notifications guidelines closed on 6 November 2019. Submissions will be published under [Past consultations](#).

The Board invites dental practitioners and its stakeholders to provide feedback to these important public consultations. Closing dates for the two open consultations are as follows:

- Public consultation on the advertising guidelines will close on 26 November 2019.
- Public consultation on the supervised practice framework will close on 17 December 2019.

The consultation papers are available on the [Consultations page](#) of the Board's 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
14 November 2019