

Welcome to the Dental Board of Australia's June 2013 newsletter.

In this Issue

Continuing professional development cycle ends 30 June 2013

What's new from the Board?

- Review of accreditation functions
- Inaugural national dental conference
- New members of state and territory committees
- Advertising taskforce

Snapshot of the profession

What documents is the Board developing?

- Review of standards, codes and guidelines

Accountability and transparency: panel and tribunal hearing decisions published

Community Reference Group for the National Scheme

Searchable programs of study database now online – an Australian first

Registration – renew online, renew on time

Update your contact details

Keep in touch with the Board

Important date! Continuing professional development cycle ends 30 June 2013

The Dental Board again reminds dental practitioners that the first three-year continuing professional development (CPD) cycle ends on **30 June 2013**.

At the end of the cycle you must have completed 60 hours of CPD activities, as required by the Board's *Continuing professional development registration standard*. This is available under the [Registration standards](#) tab on the Board's website. For other important information on CPD, see the guidelines and fact sheet under the [Policies, codes and guidelines](#) tab.

What's new from the Board?

Review of accreditation functions

The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) requires National Boards to review the arrangements for the exercise of the accreditation functions no later than 30 June 2013. These arrangements have been in place since before the National Law took effect, when the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council appointed the Australian Dental Council (ADC) as the accreditation authority for dental practitioners under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) from 1 July 2010. This appointment was for three years.

The Dental Board released a public consultation paper on the review of accreditation arrangements for dental practitioners on 30 October 2012. The Board has considered the feedback received, and members of the Board's Accreditation Review Committee have met with representatives from the ADC to discuss aspects of the review.

In the weeks ahead, we will finalise our decision about how accreditation functions will be undertaken on behalf of the Board. We will keep stakeholders informed.

Inaugural national dental conference held in May 2013

The Dental Board held its first national conference in May 2013.

The conference was held over three days and for the first time members of the state and territory committees of the Dental Board had the opportunity to meet in one place, together with representatives from the Dental Council of New South Wales and senior staff from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the NSW Health Professional Councils Authority (HPCA). The HPCA is the administrative body that supports NSW's 14 health professional councils to perform their regulatory and legislative functions under the National Scheme, while registration is handled by AHPRA.

The conference was very successful and provided participants with an opportunity to:

- reflect on the specific issues for the dental profession in the National Scheme

- share their experiences and views about future issues
- gather insights into the needs and opportunities for building strong working relationships between the Board, its committees, the NSW bodies and AHPRA
- consider data about the experience of dentistry in the National Scheme, along with the NSW experience, and
- participate in workshops on a range of issues including registration standards, notifications processes and Board policy issues.
- provide increased clarity for regulated practitioners – a change from guidance to advice
- set out the requirements of section 133 of the National Law
- include an authority statement and a link to Part 8 of the National Law, which outlines possible action taken for failure to comply, and
- clarify that the revised guidelines are **not** intended to explain to practitioners how to advertise.

New members of state and territory committees of the National Board

The Dental Board called for nominations and expressions of interest to fill vacancies in its state and territory committees. Applications were due in early March 2013 and an advisory panel was established to review applications and make selection recommendations to the Board. Applicants were advised of the outcome in late May.

Advertising taskforce

The Dental Board and AHPRA have established a taskforce to oversee the current activity on dental advertising which is not compliant with the requirements of the National Law and the *Guidelines for advertising of regulated health services*.

This review, together with the proposed changes to the advertising guidelines (from the public consultation ended 30 May 2013), will underpin the Board's future approach to managing advertising issues associated with dental practitioners.

The proposed changes to the advertising guidelines are that they:

The National Boards will consider the feedback to the public consultation on the advertising guidelines and release a final version in the upcoming months.

The Board reminds dental practitioners that:

- you are responsible for the content of all advertising material associated with the provision of your goods/ services, regardless of the type of media used to advertise, and
- you should ensure that advertising is compliant with the requirements of the National Law and the current *Guidelines for advertising of regulated health services* (available under [Policies, codes and guidelines](#) on the Board's website).

Snapshot of the profession

At the end of March 2013 there were **19,769** registered dental practitioners throughout Australia. This is an increase of 10 practitioners since the last update was released in December 2012. The number of registered dental practitioners by state and territory, and by registration type and division is illustrated in the tables below.

Dental practitioners: State and territory by registration type

State	General	General and Specialist	Limited			Non-practising	Specialist	Total	% By State
			Postgraduate training or supervised practice	Public interest	Teaching or research				
ACT	314	40				6		360	1.83%
NSW	5,493	455	87	1	8	101	8	6,153	30.93%
NT	131	7				1	1	140	0.69%
QLD	3,452	301	34		16	44	1	3,848	19.46%
SA	1,461	136	31		12	14	3	1,657	8.43%
TAS	303	22	2			4		331	1.71%
VIC	3,930	373	116		6	100	8	4,533	22.82%
WA	2,060	151	30		1	57	2	2,301	11.75%
Not Stated	350	36	5			52	3	446	2.39%
Total	17,494	1,521	305	1	43	379	26	19,769	

Dental practitioners: Registration numbers by division by state/territory

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	No PPP	Total
Dental Hygienist	42	365	8	126	234	17	178	285	12	1,267
Dental Hygienist and Dental Prosthetist		1		1						2
Dental Hygienist and Dental Prosthetist and Dental Therapist	769	1					1			2
Dental Hygienist and Dental Therapist	10	60	7	169	67	1	135	51	1	501
Dental Hygienist and Dentist	1									1
Dental Prosthetist	14	416	5	224	53	50	335	88	4	1,189
Dental Therapist	16	236	18	209	97	52	173	333	1	1,135
Dental Therapist and Dentist		1								1
Dentist	270	4,885	98	2,840	1,120	206	3,622	1,551	298	14,890
Oral Health Therapist	9	207	5	291	91	5	162	10	1	781
Grand Total	362	6,172	141	3,860	1,662	331	4,606	2,318	317	19,769

These detailed statistics can be found in the [About>Statistics](#) section of the Board's website.

What documents is the Board developing?

Review of registration standards, codes and guidelines

The Dental Board continues to review the registration standards, codes and guidelines that were developed before the National Scheme began. A very important part of this process is consultation.

The Board undertakes two phases of consultation.

- During **preliminary consultations** the Board releases the paper to key stakeholders, which allows it to 'road test' the feasibility of proposed changes as well as consider feedback that may be incorporated for the following phase.
- **Public consultations** are widely communicated in the Board's communiqués and website, and are open to everyone.

A number of standards, codes and guidelines are currently being reviewed.

Common registration standards, codes and guidelines

Together with the other National Boards, the Dental Board has been consulting with its stakeholders about the following **six** registration standards, codes and guidelines:

- *Guidelines for advertising* (common to all National Boards)
- *Guidelines for mandatory notifications* (common to all National Boards)

- draft *Social media policy* (common to all National Boards)
- *Code of conduct* (shared by 11 of the 14 National Boards, with some profession-specific modifications for some Boards)
- *English language skills registration standard*, and
- *Criminal history registration standard*.

Dental Board-specific registration standards and guidelines

The Board is also reviewing the following Board-specific registration standards (approved in 2010):

- *Continuing professional development registration standard*
- *Professional indemnity insurance registration standard*
- *Recency of practice registration standard*
- *Endorsement for conscious sedation registration standard*, and
- *Specialist registration standard*.

Preliminary consultation about these **five** standards will be underway shortly, with public consultation occurring later in the year. The Board has involved its expert reference groups (Therapeutics and Specialist) in the initial drafting of the endorsement for conscious sedation and specialist standards.

The Board is also consulting about:

- *Scope of practice registration standard*, and
- new *Scope of practice guideline*.

The period for public consultation about these two scope of practice documents ran from 8 May 2013 to 19 June 2013. The Board is now analysing the feedback it received.

The Board has set up a Scope of Practice Registration Standard Review Committee to assist in developing and consulting about these important documents.

Provide your feedback to these reviews

Please check the Dental Board's website for details of consultations and consultation material: see [News>Current consultations](#).

The Board values your views and invites you to provide your feedback to these consultations.

Accountability and transparency: panel and tribunal hearing decisions published

AHPRA and the National Boards' commitment to transparency and accountability continues, with an expansion of the information published about legal issues and hearing decisions. AHPRA has published a table of [panel hearing decisions](#) dating back to July 2010. Summaries have been provided where there is educational and clinical value. Practitioners' names are not published, consistent with the requirements of the National Law.

Some summaries of [tribunal decisions](#) are also provided, to help share information and guide practitioners.

Community Reference Group for the National Scheme

A Community Reference Group has been appointed by AHPRA and the National Boards. This group has been designed to advise AHPRA and National Boards on ways in which community understanding and involvement in our work can be strengthened. This might include:

- strategies for promoting greater community response to consultations
- ways in which the national registers of practitioners can be more accessible and better understood, and
- strategies to build greater community understanding of how practitioner regulation works.

AHPRA and the National Boards will work with the Community Reference Group to agree on a set of priorities. This will build on the feedback received at the recent community forums held across Australia in partnership with the Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF). The forums provided an opportunity for AHPRA and members of national and state boards to meet members of the public to explain how health practitioner regulation

works and what it offers the community, and to get feedback on issues of concern.

The Community Reference Group will complement the role of community members of the National Boards. The group consists of members from the community who are not health practitioners or current/past members of a National Board or committee in the National Scheme. For further details, visit the [News](#) page on AHPRA's website.

Searchable programs of study database now online – an Australian first

A comprehensive, easily searchable national database of approved programs of study is now accessible through the [AHPRA website](#).

For the first time, potential students, practitioners, the public and education providers can conduct an easy online search to identify approved programs of study. This allows potential students to check courses to ensure that they will lead to registration with one of the National Boards.

Detailed information about individual programs of study, such as course length, approval dates and any conditions, is published in one place. It also means that education providers can check, in real time, any changes or updates to the approved programs of study that they are required to report on for student registration.

The online service provides a single point of entry to important information that was previously scattered between states and territories. It is possible through the National Scheme because education programs for all professions are accredited nationally and AHPRA is able to gather national data about accredited courses.

Dental courses among the programs listed

The searchable database replaces previously published static lists for each profession and makes it easier and quicker to find important information about approved programs of study for the following professions: chiropractic, dental, medical, nursing and midwifery, optometry, osteopathy, pharmacy, physiotherapy and podiatry.

The searchable list includes inactive programs of study. These are typically programs that are no longer approved by a National Board but which still entitle graduates to apply for registration for a period of five years from the date the course was no longer approved.

Access the database at www.ahpra.gov.au/Education/Approved-Programs-of-Study.aspx.

Registration – renew online, renew on time

Registration renewal for dental practitioners is due by **30 November 2013**. We want to give you plenty of advance notice.

Most health practitioners across the National Scheme now renew online, which is convenient and saves time. Renewing online also has benefits for the National Board – it reduces the reliance on hardcopy letters and forms, saving on production, printing and postage costs.

Email reminders to renew will be sent by AHPRA later in the year, when online renewal is open. Letters will be sent to practitioners without email.

Update your contact details

Please check your contact details and update them if necessary in order to receive regular reminders from the Board and AHPRA. Email accounts should be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to a 'junk email' or 'spam' box or account.

If you have not yet provided your email address to AHPRA or the Board, please do so as a matter of urgency.

To update your contact details, go online at www.ahpra.gov.au, click 'online services', use your unique contact number (User ID) and follow the prompts. Your User ID is not your registration number. If you do not have a User ID complete an online enquiry form, selecting 'User ID' as the category of enquiry, or call 1300 419 495.

Keep in touch with the Board

- Visit our website at www.dentalboard.gov.au for information on the National Scheme and for the mandatory registration standards, codes, guidelines, policies and fact sheets. Board communiqués and consultation papers are published on the site under the *News* tab.
- Lodge an enquiry form via the website by following the *Enquiries* link on the bottom of every page.
- For registration enquiries call 1300 419 495 (from within Australia) or +61 3 8708 9001 (for overseas callers).
- Address mail correspondence to: Executive Officer, Dental Board of Australia, GPO Box 9958, Melbourne VIC 3001.

Locations of AHPRA state and territory offices are listed on the AHPRA website under the *About AHPRA >Contact us* tab.

