



Communiqué

Eleventh meeting of the Dental Board of Australia 27 August 2010

The Dental Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (National Law).

Information on Board's website

The Board is progressively publishing information on its website at www.dentalboard.gov.au and developing new Information Sheets, Frequently Asked Questions and new forms for registration applications and changes to registrant details.

The Board's list of approved programs of study (qualifications for registration) has also been updated on the website.

Dental Practitioners are encouraged to check the website regularly for updates and new information.

Joint National Board summit

On 28 August, Board members met with members of all National Boards, the Agency Management Committee and AHPRA Senior Executive to review the last year, consider regulatory issues and approaches and plan for the next 12 months. The meeting included a presentation from Mr Harry Cayton, Chief Executive of the United Kingdom Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence on 'right-touch' regulation and good practice approaches.

National Board Committees

The committees of the National Board met leading up to the 27 August Board meeting, to consider issues relevant for each committee and make recommendations to the Board. The Board committees are:

- Accreditation (Chair – Dr Gerard Condon);
- Finance and Administration (Chair – Mrs Myra Pincott); and
- Registration and Notification (Chair – Dr John Owen).

Working Group (Oral Health Therapists, Dental Therapists, Dental Hygienists) of the Dental Board of Australia

The Board has established an expert working group to advise it about various matters relating to the education, scope of practice, qualifications and pathways to registration for oral health therapists (OHTs), dental therapists and dental hygienists. The working group had its first meeting on 30 August 2010.

The working group includes Board members, representatives from the education sector, government and professional associations.

The role of the working group in the first instance is to consider the current scope of practice and qualifications of OHTs and to provide recommendations to the Board. In the longer term it is envisaged the working group will advise the Board in relation to whether its Scope of Practice Registration standard has had any "unintended and negative impacts on the scope of practice

of oral health therapists, dental therapists and dental hygienists” (as required by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council).

Dental Practitioners practising in Western Australia

Dental Practitioners who have transitioned to the national scheme are now able to practise across Australia (except Western Australia) through one registration. Western Australia is expected to join the scheme later in 2010. Anyone who wishes to practise in Western Australia until then must register with the WA Board. Similarly, a dental practitioner from Western Australia who wishes to practise in other parts of Australia must first register with the Dental Board of Australia.

Application forms are available on the Board’s website.

Registration Standards

The Board will release the following Registration Standards for a two month public consultation period in September 2010:

- Section 66 - Limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice; and
- Section 53(b) - General Registration for dental practitioners with qualifications substantially equivalent to approved qualifications.

Overseas trained dental therapists and dental hygienists

The Board agreed an *interim arrangement* in conjunction with the Australian Dental Council (ADC) to establish a pathway to general registration for overseas trained dental therapists and dental hygienists. Further detail in relation to the interim arrangement will be released in the upcoming months on the Board’s website. A long term arrangement is also being considered by the ADC.

Dr John Lockwood
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
7 September 2010