



## Communiqué

### Twentieth meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 24 June 2011

The Dental Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (National Law) as in force in each state and territory.

This communiqué highlights key issues from the Board's last meeting, held in Sydney. At this meeting the Board considered a wide range of issues including finalising the Board's guideline and registration standards which were recently consulted on, the Budget for 2011/12 and registration fees and finalised membership, delegations and Terms of Reference for the State and Territory Registration and Notification Committees and Immediate Action Committees of the Board.

#### Finalisation of Supervision Guidelines, section 53(b) and Limited Registration - Registration Standards

The Board held a workshop on 23 June with representatives from the states and territories, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), university sector and associations. The workshop discussed the feedback received from the consultation on the draft *Supervision Guidelines*, section 53(b) and *Limited Registration - Registration Standards*. The finalised *Supervision Guidelines* will be published in the upcoming month on the website, the *Section 53(b)* and *Limited Registration - Registration Standards* will be finalised and forwarded to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) for approval.

#### Conscious Sedation Area of Practice Endorsement

The requirements of the Board's Registration Standard for *Endorsement in relation to Conscious Sedation* (the Standard) **commenced on 1 July 2011** (except in Western Australia where the commencement date is 18 October 2011). The requirements of the Standard are that dentists practising conscious sedation must be endorsed by the Board and comply with the requirements of the Standard, which can be found on the Board's website at: [www.dentalboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx](http://www.dentalboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx).

The Board is aware that there are a number of dentists who have recently lodged applications for Endorsement in relation to Conscious Sedation with the Board. If you have lodged an application for endorsement with the Board (before 30 June 2011) you may continue to practise in the area of conscious sedation until your application for endorsement with the Board has been finalised.

Dentists who wish to be endorsed to practise conscious sedation and have not yet submitted an application for endorsement are encouraged to lodge an application form with AHPRA **as soon as possible**. The application form can be found on the Board's website at: [www.dentalboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx](http://www.dentalboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx).

The Board will release the draft *Guideline - Conscious Sedation Area of Practice Endorsement* for consultation in coming weeks, which provides further detail for registrants in relation to the specific practice requirements of the Standard. Interested persons are encouraged to check the Board's website for updates and information on how to provide feedback.

### **Classification of notifications**

The Board approved a classification system for notifications. While this will be an internal classification system, it will have a range of external uses. The Board and AHPRA will use it to monitor notifications and to facilitate feedback to the profession on important and emerging issues. It will also be used to report on notifications in the annual report. The new classification structure will be applied to all new notifications received from 1 July 2011.

### **State and Regional boards**

At the Board's meeting of 25 February 2011, the Board agreed to advise AHWMC that it would not have State and Regional Boards from 1 July 2011. The Board made this decision based on the reduced workload, since transition, of the State and Regional Boards, and the delegations to AHPRA staff.

The Board will retain a Registration and Notification Committee in each State and Territory. The Board has revised its delegations and Terms of Reference (TOR) for the State and Territory Registration and Notification Committees and Immediate Action Committees to reflect the change from 1 July 2011. The Board has agreed to the the number of members and membership of the State and Territory Registration and Notification Committees, with the majority of members continuing in their roles. The Board has adopted a flexible TOR for the Registration and Notification Committees to allow for additional members to be included in the committee meetings to address division specific matters on an as-needs basis.

The Board would like to thank all community and dental practitioner members of the State and Regional Boards, committees and hearing panel list for their dedication and valued support to the Board and the regulation of dental practitioners. For those members who are not continuing on with the Board we thank you for your commitment to the Board and wish you well in your future.

### **Budget for 2011/12 and registration fees**

The Board approved its budget for the 2011/12 year and approved the Health Professions Agreement with AHPRA. The Health Professions agreement defines:

- (a) the fees that will be payable by dental practitioners for registration
- (b) the annual budget of the Board (including the funding arrangements for its committees and accreditation authorities) and
- (c) the services to be provided to the Board by AHPRA to enable the Board to carry out its functions.

The Board has set its 2011-12 registration fees and limited fee increases within a CPI rate of 3.3%.

As the national registration and accreditation scheme is funded entirely by registration fees (there is no ongoing government funding except for part of the scheme in NSW in which there is a co-regulatory arrangement), fees need to be set to enable the Board and AHPRA to meet their responsibilities under the National Law

The 2011-12 fee schedule is published on the Board's website [www.dentalboard.gov.au/Fees.aspx](http://www.dentalboard.gov.au/Fees.aspx). These fees will apply to registration renewals, for the registration year starting on 1 December 2011 and expiring on 30 November 2012.

### **Receiving important information by email**

The Board continues to encourage all dental practitioners to provide AHPRA with a current email contact address by updating their contact details through online services. This will enable AHPRA to contact dental practitioners about important registration information and the Board to contact dental practitioners with important updates for the profession.

**John Lockwood**  
**Chair, Dental Board of Australia**  
**5 July 2011**