

SUBMISSION

Proposed Registration Standard: Section 53(b) General registration for dental practitioners with qualifications substantially equivalent to approved qualifications

Introduction

The 'registration' of a dental practitioner within international jurisdictions varies considerably and may not fully align with Australian requirements. Importantly although some countries' accreditation processes of courses or programs of dental study may be deemed to have Australian equivalence this does not necessarily mean equivalence in higher education curriculum, educational or professional outcomes. In addition, some countries impose additionally requirements on dental practitioners that need to be fulfilled prior to a dental practitioner being 'registered' or commencing practice, such as a 'practice certificate'.

Reference

Dental Board of Australia Registration Standard: Consultation draft Proposed Registration Standard: Section 53(b) General registration for dental practitioners with qualifications substantially equivalent to approved qualifications dated 21 December 2010.

Proposed amendments to the Requirements

1. **Eligibility for General Registration** - All requirements for general registration as a dental practitioner under the National Law must be satisfied.

Suggested amendment

Delete 'must'

Insert - 'shall'.

Reason

The auxiliary verb 'shall' is the appropriate choice of for use in a standard rather than 'must'.

3. **Eligibility for registration as a dental practitioner in the relevant overseas jurisdiction in which the qualification was obtained** - The completion of an examination or any other pre-requisites (where relevant) required for registration in the relevant overseas jurisdiction.

Suggested amendment

Delete – 'The completion of an examination or any other pre-requisites (where relevant) required for registration in the relevant overseas jurisdiction.'

Insert – 'The applicant shall demonstrate their eligibility to practice as a registered dental practitioner in the overseas jurisdiction where the qualification was obtained.'

Reasons

The proposed amendment is to enhance clarity of the requirements of the standard and facilitate the management of inter-continental differences in registration processes and outcomes for internationally qualified dental practitioners.

The meaning of 'registration' of dental practitioners varies considerable between countries and may not necessarily be equivalent for the purposes of registration within the Australia. Different countries accreditation processes of courses or programs of dental study may be deemed to be Australian equivalent but it does not necessarily mean equivalence in higher education curriculum. In addition, some countries have additionally requirements including examinations prior to 'registering' a dental practitioner and may also include issuing of a practice certificate.

Yours sincerely,

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