



Communiqué

October 2017 meeting of the Dental Board of Australia

The 90th meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Friday 27 October 2017 at the National Office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in Melbourne.

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

Roundtable on revalidation for dental practitioners

The Board hosted a roundtable on Thursday 26 October 2017 with some of its key stakeholders to start a conversation with the profession and community about revalidation.

To support the conversation the Board adopted a working definition of revalidation - 'a process for dental practitioners to regularly show that they are up to date and fit to practice dentistry, giving patients and the community the assurance that the practitioner is competent'. It is anticipated that as the revalidation conversation matures, the terminology adopted by the Board may evolve.

The Board was joined by all the dental professional associations and some regulatory colleagues – the Dental Council of New South Wales and the Dental Council of New Zealand, representatives of State health departments and public dental services, those involved with the education and training of dental practitioners, consumer representatives and a professional indemnity insurance provider and a private health insurance provider.

Professor Liz Farmer delivered the key address sharing her insights and learning as Chair of the Medical Board of Australia's Expert Advisory Group on revalidation. Professor Farmer also showcased initiatives being considered by other registered health professions internationally, along with the benefits for enhancing public protection.

The roundtable provided an opportunity to exchange views and ideas about revalidation for dental practitioners. It also provided the Board with insights from key stakeholders about the opportunities and challenges of adopting revalidation for dental practitioners in Australia.

While different aspects of revalidation were discussed the Board has not yet resolved to adopt a specific approach to revalidation. The information and feedback from the roundtable will be used to help the Board in considering the approach it might take toward a system of revalidation for dental practitioners in Australia.

The Board will provide updates in its newsletter, communiqué and website as the revalidation project progresses.

Update on the scheduled review of Scope of practice registration standard and Guidelines for scope of practice

As advised in the July 2017 [communiqué](#), the Board has started its scheduled review of the [Scope of practice registration standard](#) and [Guidelines for scope of practice](#) which establishes the requirements for the scope of practice for all registered dental practitioners.

The Board recently completed a preliminary consultation on a draft revised *Scope of practice registration standard* and draft revised *Guidelines for scope of practice*. During preliminary consultation, the Board released a paper to key regulatory stakeholders to test the feasibility of proposed changes as well as consider feedback that may be incorporated for public consultation. Currently, the Board is reviewing the feedback received as part of preliminary consultation.

As part of this review and in line with its obligations under the National Law¹, the Board will consult all stakeholders. Consultation is an important part of the Board's engagement with dental practitioners, members of the public and professional and regulatory stakeholders. The feedback provided is greatly valued and informs the Board's development of its regulatory documents.

The Board will publicly consult on the registration standard and guideline in 2018. Public consultations are widely communicated in the Board's communiqués and website, and are open to everyone.

Further information on the consultation procedures for National Board's can be found on the [AHPRA website](#).

Reminder - Call for applications

The Board invites applications from registered and experienced dental practitioners and community members seeking appointment to the Registration and Notification Committee of the Board in the following states and territories:

- Australian Capital Territory
- Northern Territory
- South Australia
- Tasmania, and
- Victoria.

The Board's Registration and Notification Committees advises the Board and makes decisions where the Board has delegated powers under the National Law.

Appointments are for up to three years, with eligibility for reappointment and are expected to start in January 2018.

You will need a detailed knowledge of the National Law, Board policies, codes and guidelines, practice standards and legislation in your jurisdiction.

Your application will be assessed by a Selection Advisory Panel for appointable positions.

For more information on the role and the application process, please download the [information guide and application forms](#).

Applications close on 10 November 2017.

Graduating soon? Watch the Board's new video and apply now

Are you about to graduate soon and start your career as a dental practitioner? If the answer is yes, the Board has developed a new video to help you when you register with the Board for the first time.

The Board's main role is to protect the public by setting standards, codes and guidelines for dental practitioners to meet to practice the profession in Australia.

Graduates need to be registered as a dental practitioner with the Board before they start practising. The video, which is available on the [Board's website](#), explains to students the importance of meeting their regulatory obligations so they are all set for the next phase of their career journey

The video provides an overview of the obligations that all graduates must meet to maintain registration and gives some helpful information when applying for registration.

¹Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

The video can be found on the Board's dedicated [Student registration](#) webpage as well as the Board and AHPRA's [YouTube](#) channel and [Facebook](#) page. It can also be found on [twitter](#) via the hashtag #dentalgrad.

Newsletter from the Board

The Board has released its latest newsletter. Read more in the [Newsletters](#) section.

Survey on professional behaviour

We're interested in finding out more about how dental practitioners look for information about professional behaviour. Please [take our anonymous survey](#) by Wednesday **22 November 2017** to let us know.

We will use the information collected to inform our work on policies, codes and guidelines and how we communicate with practitioners about their professional obligations.

National regulation of paramedicine moves a step closer

The national regulation of paramedicine moves a step closer with the [appointment of the first Paramedicine Board of Australia](#).

The Health Ministers made the announcement of the nine person board at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council meeting held on 19 October 2017. Paramedicine will be the first profession to be regulated under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) since 2012.

Registration of paramedicine is due to commence from late 2018. Paramedics will be able to register once and practise anywhere in Australia. The title 'paramedic' will also become a 'protected title' – only people registered with the Board will be able to call themselves a paramedic.

More information, including news about the implementation of the regulation of paramedics and the newly appointed Board members will be available on the Paramedicine Board of Australia'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.

John Lockwood AM
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
9 November 2017