



Communiqué

Forty fifth meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 25 October 2013

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

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the National Board's October 2013 meeting.

Consultation on English language skills and Criminal history registration standards

The 14 National Boards in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) have released a consultation paper on the review of the criminal history and English language registration standards.

You are invited to provide your comments on the consultation paper, including the questions in the paper, by 23 December 2013.

This stage of consultation is open to everyone. We encourage all interested practitioners, members of the community and other stakeholders to have input.

The consultation paper can be found on the Dental Board's website under the [News](#) tab.

Annual report

The 2012/13 Annual Report of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the National Boards has been published.

The report details the work of the National Boards and AHPRA in implementing the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme over the 12 months to 30 June 2013.

There are now more than 590,000 health practitioners registered to practise in Australia – an increase in all professions and more than ever before – with one in 20 working Australians a registered health practitioner.

For the dental profession the report reveals that:

- 19,912 dental practitioners were registered at the end of June 2013, an increase of 8.7 per cent since national registration data was first published in June 2011
- 1,052 notifications (concerns/complaints) were received about dental practitioners and of these 586 were lodged outside of NSW where there is a co-regulatory system¹
- 1,075 notifications were closed nationally by 30 June 2013, 522 of these were managed outside of NSW
- of the 522 cases closed under the National Scheme, practitioners were fined in two cases. Of the remainder, the Dental Board of Australia determined to:
 - take no further action or that the case was to be handled by the relevant health complaints entity who initially received the notification or referred to another body for action in 422 cases
 - caution or reprimand the practitioner in 64 cases, and
 - impose conditions on a dental practitioner's registration or accept an undertaking in 34 cases
- the Board established an Oral Surgery Panel to provide advice to the Board on the specialty of oral surgery, and

Guidelines on supervision for dental practitioners were finalised and published after consultation.

The annual report can be found under the [Legislation and publication](#) tab of the AHPRA website.

Audit

AHPRA and the National Boards have developed a nationally consistent approach to auditing health practitioners' compliance with mandatory registration standards.

Audits are an important part of the way for dental practitioners to demonstrate to the community and to the Dental Board that they are meeting the mandatory registrations standards.

Under the National Law, AHPRA can request (on behalf of the Dental Board) you to provide evidence that you meet the standards, as declared in your previous annual statement.

Your annual statement is made when you apply to renew your registration. It is supported by a declaration confirming that it is 'true and correct'.

The annual statement also includes (among other things) statements about whether:

- you have met the recency of practice requirements stated in the Board's registration standard
- you met the Board's continuing professional development (CPD) requirements as set out in the Board's CPD registration standard during the previous registration period
- you practised in accordance with the requirements of the Board's Professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements registration standard, and whether you commit to practise in accordance with that registration standard if your registration is renewed, and
- there was any change in your criminal history during the previous registration period and whether you have any other criminal history that has not been disclosed to AHPRA.

How will I know if I am being audited?

Audits of random samples of dental practitioners will occur periodically throughout the coming year.

If you are selected for audit, you will receive an audit notice in the mail from AHPRA. It includes a checklist that outlines what supporting documentation is required to demonstrate that you meet the standard(s) being audited.

What is being audited?

Each time you apply to renew your registration, you make a declaration that you have (or have not) met the registration standards for your profession. The audit requires that you provide further information to support your declarations.

Your audit notice letter will identify which standard/standards are being audited. One or more of the following four mandatory registration standards may be audited:

- Criminal history
- English language skills
- Recency of practice, and
- Continuing professional development.

All of these standards are published on the Dental Board's website under the [Registration standard](#) tab.

Additional information

We will publish an audit specific page on our website in coming weeks to keep you informed and provide you with the information and tools to help you if you are selected for audit.

Graduate applications for registration

Students of an approved program leading to registration as a dental practitioner can go [online](#) now to apply for registration before they graduate.

The online graduate application service at AHPRA website enables final-year students to apply for registration four to six weeks before completing their course.

This streamlined process allows graduating students to apply for registration for the first time with the Dental Board in five steps.

Newsletter

We will be releasing the latest edition of our newsletter in coming weeks. If you have an email registered with AHPRA then you will receive it directly. It is also published on the Board's website under the *News* tab.

If you wish to receive this, please check your contact details lodged with AHPRA through the [Your Account](#) tab on the top right of the AHPRA website. Email accounts should be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

To check your contact details, go to the Your Account link above, use your unique contact number (User ID) and follow the prompts. Your User ID is not your registration number. If you do not have your User ID, complete an online enquiry form, selecting 'User ID' as the category of enquiry or by calling 1300 419 495.

John Lockwood AM
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
6 November 2013