

Communiqué

December 2019 meeting of the Dental Board of Australia

The Dental Board of Australia (the Board) held its 114th meeting on Friday 13 December 2019 in Melbourne.

This communiqué highlights the key discussions and considerations covered during the Board meeting as well as other relevant 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 within your work or organisation.

Scope of practice update – stakeholder forums

As [previously reported](#), the Council of Australia Governments Health Council approved the revised *Scope of practice registration standard* at its November 2019 meeting. The standard will take effect from mid-2020.

In addition to publishing further materials to support the standard, the Board is delivering a series of stakeholder forums around Australia. The Board will publish a full schedule of forum dates on a dedicated 'Scope of practice' webpage, to be announced shortly.

The planned early forums are for the afternoons of:

- Friday 13 March 2020 in Melbourne
- Friday 20 March 2020 in Sydney.

More information about the forum schedule, time and places, will be published once finalised.

The Board will continue its ongoing engagement with the dental profession and key stakeholders throughout 2020.

Support service for dental practitioners

The Board would like to provide free access to an independent national referral service so that dental practitioners and students can anonymously seek help about their health if they need it. This service would provide an opportunity for practitioners and students to voluntarily access support early, and to receive timely and appropriate information about how to engage with formal supports and/or treatment when required.

In early 2020, the Board will review options and undertake more detailed work around the implementation of an early intervention and prevention service, providing a 24-hour telephone, brief intervention counselling, health information support and referral services.

Registration renewal before the late period ends

The late period for registration renewal is in effect until 31 December 2019. If you have not yet renewed, the quickest and easiest way to do so is [online](#).

Renewal applications received in December will incur a late payment fee in addition to the annual renewal fee. The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), outlines and provides the authority for Board fees. The Board publishes the [fees schedule](#) on its website.

Provided your application for renewal is received by Ahpra during the December one-month late period, you can continue practising while your application is processed.

If you do not apply to renew your registration by 31 December 2019 your registration will lapse. You will be removed from the [Register of Dental practitioners](#) and will not be able to practise your profession in Australia.

Are your contact details up to date?

Your contact details must be 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](#). Your email settings may need to be changed to receive emails from Ahpra or the Board and to avoid misdirection to junk mail.

Conclusion

The Board publishes a range of information about registration and the 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.

Dr Murray Thomas
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
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