



Communiqué

October 2018 meeting of the Dental Board of Australia

The 101st meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Friday 26 October 2018 at the National Office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

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.

New appointments to the Dental Board of Australia

The COAG Health Council has [announced](#) new appointments and reappointments to the Dental Board of Australia and other National Boards.

Dr Murray Thomas is the new Chair of the Dental Board of Australia.

Dr Thomas is a full-time general dentist providing care in the south eastern suburb of Chisholm in Canberra for over 20 years. He graduated from Queensland University BSc and holds a post-graduate Diploma in Dental Health.

On graduating he embarked on a career in the Australian Regular Army and retired from the army to private practice in 2000. During his career in the military he worked as a dental officer and in a number Defence Health staff officer positions including Head Of Corps for the Royal Australian Army Dental Corps.

He has served as a Director and Councillor of the Australian Dental Council (ADC) and has had active involvement with the Australian Dental Association (ADA) committees, particularly the ADA NSW Branch as a Director and Councillor and serving as part of the of its executive team.

He has been a champion of accreditation of dental practices since 2008 and has a long association with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care through working parties for the development of a *Dental Guide to the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards* and *Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard*. He is currently a member of the ACT Clinical Council.

He has been involved with dental practitioner regulation in the ACT since 2005 and was appointed to the Dental Board of Australia as a practitioner member in 2012. He is a recipient of the Australia Dental Association Service Medallion and is a fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy and the International College of Dentists.

From 2 October 2018 the Board will be joined by:

- Dr Penny Burns, practitioner member, New South Wales.
- Ms Jacqui Gibson, community member, Victoria.
- Mr Tan Nguyen, practitioner member (Oral health therapist), Victoria.
- Ms Janice Okine, practitioner member (Oral health therapist), Queensland.
- Professor Richard Logan, practitioner member, South Australia.
- Carolynne Smith, practitioner member (Prosthetist), Tasmania.

We congratulate all the new appointees.

Retiring members

We thank Dr John Lockwood AM for his commitment, dedication and contribution as the Dental Board of Australia's inaugural Chair. He has facilitated the achievement of significant milestones in the regulation of the dental profession and we thank you for your efforts in guiding the Board since your appointment in 2009.

We thank and congratulate the retiring members of the Board on their enthusiasm and commitment to the regulation of the dental profession over a number of years, including before the start of the National Scheme.

They are:

- Ms Susan Aldenhoven AM
- Mrs Jennifer Bishop
- Mr Paul House
- Associate Professor Sajeev Koshy OAM, and
- Ms Alison von Bibra.

Action taken on unregistered practitioner to protect the public

Mr Majid Rahebi from New South Wales has been convicted and fined \$11,250 for falsely representing that he was authorised or qualified to practise as a dentist and \$18,750 for performing restricted dental acts. He was also ordered to pay approximately \$19,950 in costs.

Mr Rahebi's company MJ Dental Care Pty Ltd was also convicted and fined \$11,250 for representing that Mr Rahebi was authorised or qualified to practise as a dentist.

Mr Rahebi was charged on 14 May 2018 by AHPRA with 44 counts of falsely representing that he was a registered dentist and 31 counts of performing a restricted dental act. Mr Rahebi's business, MJ Dental Care Pty Ltd was also charged with falsely representing that Mr Rahebi was authorised or qualified to practise as a dentist. The charges related to Mr Rahebi's conduct between 15 November 2017 and 24 February 2018 while working at his business MJ Dental Care Pty Ltd at Guildford West, NSW.

Mr Rahebi has never been registered as a dentist or as any other health practitioner in Australia and holds no formal dental qualifications.

Read the full [media release](#) on the Board's website.

Dental practitioners are reminded to renew registration by 30 November

Dental practitioners have until 30 November 2018 to renew their registration on time. The quickest and easiest way to renew is [online](#).

Practitioners whose application is received on time or during the following one-month late period can continue practising while their application is processed. Applications received in December will incur a late payment fee in addition to the annual renewal fee.

Practitioners who do not apply to renew their registration by 31 December 2018 will have lapsed registration. They will be removed from the national register and will not be able to practise in Australia.

More information about renewal of registration is available on the [Board's website](#).

Dental Board support more public information on register

Changes to the national [Register of practitioners](#) will make it easier to access public information about health practitioners across Australia.

The online *Register of practitioners* has accurate, up-to-date information about the registration status of all registered health practitioners in Australia including dental practitioners. As decisions are made about a

practitioner's registration renewal or disciplinary proceedings, the register is updated to inform the public about the current status of individual practitioners and any restrictions placed upon their practice.

The Board has decided to introduce links to public tribunal decisions when serious allegations have been proven, in the interests of transparency and on the recommendation of the [Independent review of the use of chaperones to protect patients in Australia](#).

No information about the notifications received by the Boards and AHPRA will be published. The change is simply helping to make already publicly available information easier to find.

Further information is available on the [Board's website](#).

Newsletter from the Board

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

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.

Dr Murray Thomas
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
1 November 2018