

Communiqué

November 2019 meeting of the Dental Board of Australia

The 113th meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Friday 22 November 2019 in Melbourne.

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the Board's 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 in the organisation you work.

Cultural safety definition announcement soon

In July 2018, Ahpra released the [Statement of Intent](#) publishing a [joint commitment](#) with the 15 National Boards, accreditation authorities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector leaders and organisations. The statement intends to make patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the norm.

The Statement of Intent recognises that cultural safety is patient safety and that cultural safety must be defined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. A strategic priority of the Statement of Intent is to help embed cultural safety into the health system through consistent regulation with over 740,000 registered health practitioners across Australia.

Last April, Ahpra, National Boards and accreditation authorities partnered with the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group](#) and the National Health Leadership Forum to conduct a public consultation for feedback on a proposed definition of 'cultural safety'. The final definition is now finalised and endorsed as the minimum baseline cultural safety definition for consistency across all functions of the National Scheme. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group will announce the final definition in a [communiqué](#) soon.

Scope of practice update

The Council of Australia Governments Health Council at its November 2019 meeting approved the revised Scope of practice registration standard. The standard will take effect from mid-2020.

In November 2019, the Health Ministers approved the revised standard, after considering the independent review of the standard by the Commission. Ministers also supported the publication of that report.

The Board will soon publish further materials to support the standard, including the strengthened guidelines that will help to clarify certain aspects of the changes. At that time, we will publish further information about the implementation of the revised standard.

The Board will continue to engage with the dental profession and key stakeholders during the rest of 2019.

The engagement will include the planned start of the standard in mid-2020 and the proposed changes and our approach to implementation. It has identified key activities to support communications about and implementation of the revised standard.

The activities include:

- hosting stakeholder forums for the profession in each capital city and in some regional hubs
- developing consumer-focused information about the changes, and

- a post-implementation review 12 months after the standard takes effect

Social research results help to inform our work

The Board noted the release of results from a social research project about the National Boards and Ahpra. The project aimed to understand better what the community, regulated health professions, and our stakeholders think and feel about us, particularly in areas of understanding, confidence and trust.

The Board has published the social research results on the Board's website. The aim is that these insights will inform continued improvements across all areas of our work.

We have surveyed practitioners and the community again in 2019, and these survey results will be released in 2020.

Registration renewal before the late period ends

The late period for registration renewal is in effect until 31 December. 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. This is outlined in the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). A fees schedule is published on the Board's website.

If your application for renewal is received during the 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.

Quarterly registration data released

The Board has released its quarterly registration data. Read the latest report and other statistics on the Board's [Statistics page](#) on its website.

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](#). Email accounts need to be set to receive communications from Ahpra and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

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
5 December 2019