



Communiqué

December 2015

The 70th meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Friday 11 December in the National Office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in Melbourne.

This was our last meeting for 2015. We will next meet in February 2016. As the year draws to a close we wish you all a safe and peaceful festive season.

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 widely to colleagues and interested parties. This includes distributing it to the different levels in the organisation that you work in.

Have you renewed your registration yet?

Dental practitioners, who did not renew their registration by 30 November 2015, have now entered the late period and must renew by 31 December to keep practising. If you did not renew your registration on time a late payment fee will apply in addition to the annual renewal fee.

The quickest and easiest way to renew your registration is [online](#). You can keep practising during the late period but must apply for renewal of registration by 31 December.

Under the National Law¹, if you do not apply to renew your registration by 31 December 2015 your registration will lapse. This will mean that your name will be removed from the [Register of Dental Practitioners](#) and you will not be able to practise your profession in Australia.

AHPRA, on behalf of the Board, has sent a series of email and hard copy reminders about this to practitioners. If you are a registered dental practitioner with general, specialist or non-practising registration and have not received a reminder to renew your registration, you should phone AHPRA on 1300 419 495 immediately.

If your application for renewal is received during the later period you can continue practising while your application is processed.

Fast track application forms will be available on the Board website under *Forms* during January. If submitting a fast track application in January, you cannot practise until your application is processed and your registration details are updated on the national register.

An FAQ about renewal is available [here](#).

NSQHS Standards Guide for Dental Practices and Services

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has released the *NSQHS Standards Guide for Dental Practices and Services* to support dental practices and services improve the safety and quality of care using the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards as a framework for improvement.

The release of the *NSQHS Standards Guide for Dental Practices and Services* supports the implementation of the NSQHS Standards in dental settings and promotes a consistent and shared understanding of the Standards.

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

Download the [NSQHS Standards Guide for Dental Practices and Services](#).

Call for expression of interest: DBA nominee for membership of the Australian Dental Council

The Australian Dental Council (ADC) is the assigned accreditation authority for the profession.

The National Board is able to nominate an individual for membership of the ADC.

We are calling for expressions of interest from individuals to be appointed as the DBA nominee.

Further information is available [here](#).

Advertising qualifications or memberships

The Board's [Guidelines for advertising regulated health services](#) have been developed to help practitioners and others understand their obligations when advertising a regulated health service.

Advertising qualifications or memberships may be a useful way to provide the public with information about the experience and expertise of health practitioners. However, it may be misleading or deceptive if the advertisement implies that the practitioner has more skill or experience than is the case.

Patients or clients are best protected when advertisers promote practitioners' qualifications that are:

- approved for the purposes of registration, including specialist registration and endorsement of registration
- conferred by approved higher education providers², or
- conferred by an education provider that has been accredited by an accreditation authority.

The [Australian Dental Council](#) (the ADC) is the accreditation authority for the dental professions registered under the National Scheme. Approved qualifications can be found [here](#).

From time to time education providers may advertise that they are an accredited provider. This accreditation status may be conferred for the purpose of academic accreditation by another agency such as [TESQA](#). This means that they have been accredited against generic standards and not profession specific ones.

The ADC accredits education providers against profession specific standards to provide programs that are approved for registration with the Dental Board of Australia as a dental practitioner, including specialist registration.

Information on how to make a complaint about the advertising of a regulated health service is available on the AHPRA [website](#).

Are you a graduate applying for registration?

We provide a streamlined approach for registration for new graduates from approved programs.

The [graduate application page](#) explains, step by step, how to apply for registration if you're a graduate.

The [frequently asked questions](#) provide answers to common questions about graduate applications.

Please take the time to read this information before submitting your application.

After applying online, you will receive your [next steps checklist](#) through email. Please read this carefully and mail the specified supporting documents.

AHPRA will contact you if further information is required to complete your application.

Don't forget to read the [FAQ, 'What happens next?'](#)

You cannot be registered until your education provider confirms to AHPRA the names of students who have successfully completed the course and your application has been assessed as meeting your profession's registration requirements.

² Within the meaning of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (Cth)

Quarterly statistics

Information about every registered health practitioner in Australia is published on a single national [register of practitioners](#). Under the National Scheme, it is possible to produce accurate reports on the number of practitioners registered in each profession in Australia.

In 2012, the Dental Board of Australia began publishing quarterly data profiling Australia's dental workforce, including a number of statistical breakdowns about registrants. The latest data is published [here](#).

Dental Board of Australia newsletter

The Board's electronic is now available and provides an update on a range of Board activities for dental practitioners. This newsletter focuses on infection prevention and control obligations and provides a [list of relevant reference documents](#) that practitioners should be familiar with. The newsletter also highlights news revised registration standards, a new fact sheet on botulinum toxin and dermal fillers, and information on a consultation paper we have released on the proposed entry-level competencies for dental specialties.

A copy of the newsletter is available on the [Board's website](#).

Dental Board of Australia profession profile

The Board will publish a report in the new year of its work with dental practitioners in the National Scheme during 2014/15.

The report provides a profession-specific view of the Board's work to manage risk to the public. It is a profile of regulation at work for dental practitioners in Australia for the 12 months ending 30 June 2015.

The data in this report are drawn from data published in the [2014/15 annual report](#) of AHPRA and the National Boards, reporting on the National Scheme and will be available soon on the [AHPRA website](#).

Programs to extend scope

Under the Board's [Scope of practice registration standard](#), dental practitioners must only perform dental treatment:

- *for which they have been educated and trained in programs of study approved by the National Board, and*
- *in which they are competent.*

The programs of study approved by the Board include approved programs of study and programs to extend scope (formerly known as add-on programs).

The list of approved programs to extend scope and the list of historical programs are available on the [Board's website](#).

The Board has published additional information on its website about these programs. Read more information [here](#).

Are your contact details up to date?

Throughout the year we need to send you important information related to your registration.

So that you received this information you need to check that we have your correct contact details.

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.

