

Bulletin

DENTAL BOARD OF QUEENSLAND

Inside this Issue

Chairman's Report

Chairman's Report

Change to Registration Period.....2

Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001

Registration.....2

Advertising.....4

Business name requirements.....5

Requirement to notify changes in circumstances.....5

Dental Practitioners Registration Regulation 2001

Dental Hygienists.....5

Health Practitioners (Professional Standards)

Act 1999

Inappropriate touching.....5

Requirement to notify of certain convictions
judgements and settlements and certain events.....5

Board Policies

Access to policies.....6

Policy #8 General Anaesthesia and Conscious

Sedation in Dentistry.....6

Board Guidelines

Guidelines on Dental Records, March 1999.....6

Guidelines on Duty of Care In Team Dentistry.....6

Guidelines for Use of Bleaching Agents by
Dental Hygienists.....6

Board Notice

Anti-Snoring Devices.....7

Statistics.....8

Online Access to the Register.....9

**Undergraduate Prize in Oral Pathology
And Oral Medicine**.....9

"What Dentists Need to Know".....9

Board Website Information Available.....10

Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001

With some 10 months experience of this new Act some comments are warranted. The criteria for initial registration have changed for prescribed qualifications and good fame and character; it is now prescribed qualifications or equivalent qualifications and fitness to practice. These changes have not altered significantly the workload of the Board to date as the Board relies on the Australian Dental Council to assess equivalence of qualifications.

The new process of renewal of registration is considerably more demanding than the previous annual automatic re-registration process. This has led to a review of office processes and staffing and the change in the registration year from the calendar year to the financial year.

The important change for registrants is that those dentists who fail to renew their registration by the due date of 31 December 2002 for this renewal run, but 30 June thereafter, will not be registered for the period until they restore their registration. As the Register is now publicly available on the Web, patients, health funds, pharmacists, indemnity providers, and other interested parties will be able to identify periods when dentists and dental specialists are practicing without registration.

Registrants should note that the maximum penalty for holding out by an unregistered person to be a dentist or dental specialist is 1,000 penalty units (\$75,000).

Centenary of the Regulation of Dentistry in Queensland

The first dental legislation in Queensland, the Dental Act 1902 received assent on 26 December 1902, and commenced on 1 January 1903. The first formal Dental Board meeting was held on the first Tuesday in March 1903.

To mark the centenary of the regulation of the profession of dentistry, the Board commissioned Malcolm Thomis, Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Queensland, to write a history of the Dental Board of Queensland. This book has now been published and was launched at a function on 8 November 2002 by the Honorable Wendy Edmond, Minister for Health. The book is available from the Office of the Board for \$33.00 (GST included).

Rick Olive
Chairman

Change to Registration Period

Because of the workload that will be generated by the new process of renewal, the Board has decided to change the registration period from the calendar year to the financial year, 1 July to 30 June. Most dentists will have a Certificate of Registration valid until 31 December 2002. In October this year they were notified of the requirement for renewal for 6 months registration to 30 June 2003. In April 2003, a renewal notice for the 2002-03 financial year will be forwarded to registrants. Thereafter the registration period will be from 1 July to 30 June.

Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001

Registration

The following is provided with a view to informing registrants who hold a qualification which is no longer prescribed, of the importance of maintaining current registration.

The *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001* and *Dental Practitioners Registration Regulation 2001* provide that the holders of the following are qualified for general registration in Queensland:

- ▶ Bachelor of Dental Science (University of Queensland);
- ▶ Bachelor of Dental Surgery (University of Sydney);
- ▶ Bachelor of Dental Science (University of Melbourne);
- ▶ Bachelor of Dental Surgery (Adelaide University);
- ▶ Bachelor of Dental Science (Uni. of Western Australia)
- ▶ Bachelor of Dental Survey (University of Otago);
- ▶ A qualification that is substantially equivalent to, or based on similar competencies to that required for, a current Australian or New Zealand qualification;
- ▶ A pass in a qualifying examination in the profession set by or for, or recognised, the Board. The body recognised by the Board is the Australian Dental Council (previously the Australian Dental Examining Council).

With the commencement of the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001* on 1 January 2002, the Board approved a Policy #14 whereby as a transitional arrangement, the Board will, until 31 December 2004, continue to recognise for the purposes of section 44(1)(b) of the Act, the following qualifications that were described in Schedule 1 to the *Dental By-Law 1988* as at 31 December 2001:

- ▶ B.D.S. (University of New Zealand);
- ▶ B.D.S. (University of Belfast);
- ▶ B.D.S. (University of Birmingham);
- ▶ B.D.S. (University of Bristol);
- ▶ B.D.S. (University of Dundee);
- ▶ B.D.S. (University of Durham);
- ▶ B.D.S. (University of Edinburgh);
- ▶ B.D.S. (University of Glasgow);
- ▶ B.D.S. (National University of Ireland);
- ▶ B.D.S. (University of Liverpool);
- ▶ B.D.S. (University of London);
- ▶ B.D.S. (University of Manchester);
- ▶ B.D.S. (University of Newcastle upon Tyne);
- ▶ B.D.S. (University of St. Andrews);
- ▶ B.D.S. (University of Sheffield);
- ▶ B.D.S. (University of Wales);
- ▶ B.Dent.Sc. (University of Dublin);
- ▶ B.Ch.D. (University of Leeds).

Under Section 102 of the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001*, a person is qualified for specialist registration in a specialty if the applicant has:

- (a) a postgraduate qualification prescribed for the specialty under a regulation; or
- (b) a qualification in the specialty that is substantially equivalent to, or based on similar competencies to that required for, a current Australian or New Zealand qualification; or
- (c) passed a qualifying examination in the specialty set by or for, or recognised by, the Board.

In relation to (a) previously, the following Australian and New Zealand postgraduate qualifications have been prescribed under the *Dental Practitioners Registration Regulation 2001*. For a holder of a Masters of Dental Science from the Universities of Melbourne and Western Australia, the qualification only applies to the specialty in which the applicant undertook the Masters program leading to the qualification:

Dento-maxillofacial Radiology

Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Dento-Maxillofacial Radiology),
University of Adelaide

Endodontics

Master of Dental Science (Endodontics),
University of Queensland
Master of Dental Science (Endodontics),
University of Sydney
Master of Dental Science,
University of Melbourne
Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Endodontics),
University of Adelaide
Master of Dental Science,
University of Western Australia
Master of Dental Science (Endodontics),
University of Otago, New Zealand

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Master of Dental Science (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery),
University of Queensland
Master of Dental Science (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery),
University of Sydney
Master of Dental Science,
University of Melbourne
Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery),
University of Adelaide
Master of Dental Science,
University of Western Australia
Master of Dental Science (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery),
University of Otago, New Zealand

Oral Pathology and Oral Medicine

Master of Dental Science (Oral Medicine/Oral Pathology),
University of Queensland
Master of Dental Science (Oral Medicine),
University of Sydney
Master of Dental Science,
University of Melbourne
Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Oral Pathology),
University of Adelaide
Master of Dental Science,
University of Western Australia
Master of Dental Science (Oral Medicine),
University of Otago, New Zealand
Master of Dental Science (Oral Pathology),
University of Otago, New Zealand

Orthodontics

- Master of Dental Science (Orthodontics),
University of Queensland
- Master of Dental Science (Orthodontics),
University of Sydney
- Master of Dental Science,
University of Melbourne
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Orthodontics),
University of Adelaide
- Master of Dental Science,
University of Western Australia
- Master of Dental Science (Orthodontics),
University of Otago, New Zealand

Paedodontics / Paediatric Dentistry

- Master of Dental Science (Paediatric Dentistry),
University of Queensland
- Master of Dental Science (Paediatric Dentistry),
University of Sydney
- Master of Dental Science,
University of Melbourne
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Paediatric Dentistry),
University of Adelaide
- Master of Dental Science,
University of Western Australia
- Master of Dental Science (Paediatric Dentistry),
University of Otago, New Zealand

Periodontics

- Master of Dental Science (Periodontics),
University of Queensland
- Master of Dental Science (Periodontics),
University of Sydney
- Master of Dental Science,
University of Melbourne
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Periodontics),
University of Adelaide
- Master of Dental Science,
University of Western Australia
- Master of Dental Science (Periodontology),
University of Otago, New Zealand

Prosthodontics

- Master of Dental Science (Prosthodontics),
University of Queensland
- Master of Dental Science (Prosthodontics),
University of Sydney
- Master of Dental Science (Removable Prosthodontics),
University of Sydney
- Master of Dental Science,
University of Melbourne
- Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Prosthodontics),
University of Adelaide
- Master of Dental Science (Prosthodontics),
University of Otago, New Zealand

Public Health Dentistry

- Master of Dental Science
(Community Oral Health and Epidemiology),
University of Sydney
- Master of Dental Science,
University of Melbourne

Part B: Other qualifications considered by the Board to be substantially equivalent to, or based on similar competencies to that required for a current Australian or New Zealand qualification.

Until 31 December 2004, the Board will continue to recognise for the purpose of section 102(1)(b) of the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001*, the following qualifications that were prescribed in Schedule 2 of the *Dental By-law 1988* as at 31 December 2001, if the qualification was awarded at the completion of at least three years full-time study.

Each qualification is to be obtained by course-work extending not less than 3 years full-time study or an equivalent period of part-time study.

Satisfactory evidence of compliance with this condition is required to be produced at the time of application for specialist registration.

1. Qualifications awarded by Universities in Australia
M.D.S. Or M.D.Sc. (By course work) from:
 - (a) University of Adelaide;
 - (b) University of Melbourne;
 - (c) University of Queensland;
 - (d) University of Sydney;
 - (e) University of Western Australia.
2. Qualifications awarded by the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons
 - (a) FRACDSOS;
 - (b) FRACDS D. Pros.;
 - (c) FRACDS D. Endo.;
 - (d) FRACDSOMS;
 - (e) FRACDSPROS;
 - (f) FRACDSEND.
3. Qualifications awarded by the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Edinburgh, Glasgow or Ireland.
 - (a) F.D.S.R.C.S. (England, Edinburgh, Ireland) together with a certificate of accreditation awarded by the Royal College of Surgeons in:
 - (i) oral surgery and oral medicine;
 - (ii) orthodontics;
 - (iii) restorative dentistry;
 - (b) F.D.S.R.C.P.S. (Glasgow) together with a Certificate of accreditation awarded by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in:
 - (i) oral surgery and oral medicine;
 - (ii) orthodontics;
 - (iii) restorative dentistry;
 - (c) Dip. Orth. R.C.S. (England) together with a Certificate of accreditation in orthodontics Awarded by the Royal College of Surgeons.

4. Qualifications awarded by the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
 - (a) M. Dent. (Orthodontics);
 - (b) M. Dent. (Prosthodontics);
 - (c) M. Dent. (Maxillofacial and Oral Surgery);
 - (d) M. Dent. (Periodontics and Oral Medicine);
 - (e) M. Dent. (Oral Pathology);
 - (f) Dip. Ortho.;
 - (g) Dip. Pros.;
 - (h) Dip. MFOS.;
 - (i) Dip. POM.;
 - (j) Dip. Oral Path.

5. Qualifications awarded by the University of London M.Sc. (In children's dentistry, conservative dentistry, prosthetic dentistry, orthodontics, periodontology, oral pathology, or dental public health) involving or followed by at least 2 years continuous full time specialist training at registrar or equivalent level.

6. Qualifications awarded by the University of Otago, Dunedin
M.D.S. (1976 and subsequent years)

7. Degrees, diplomas or certificates awarded by Institutions accredited by the Council on Dental Education of the American Dental Association to conduct an advanced level programme for the preparation of dental specialists involving at least 2 years full time training on an equal amount of Training on a part time basis.

Advertising

The *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001* affects advertising by Dentists and Dental Specialists. The provisions about advertising in the Act are as follows:

150. Obligations of Advertisers

- (1) A person must not advertise a professional service, or a business providing professional services, in a way that -
 - (a) is false, misleading or deceptive or is likely to be misleading or deceptive; or (Example for paragraph (a) - An advertisement that contains a false claim about the beneficial outcome of a professional service)
 - (b) offers a discount, gift or other inducement to attract a person to use the service or the business, unless the advertisement also states the terms of the offer; or
 - (c) refers to, uses or cites actual or purported endorsements or testimonials about the service or business, or a registrant; or

150. Obligations of Advertisers (cont.)

- (d) is disparaging of-
 - (i) a professional service provided by another person; or
 - (ii) a business providing professional services; or
 - (iii) a registrant.

Maximum penalty - 200 penalty units.

- (2) A person must not advertise a professional service that the person knows or ought reasonably to know will, or is likely to, harm a person to whom it is provided.

Maximum penalty - 200 penalty units.

- (3) A person must not advertise a registrant's expertise in a field of practise of the profession unless the registrant has the skills, knowledge, training or qualifications necessary to practise in the field.

Maximum penalty - 200 penalty points.

- (4) A printer or publisher does not commit an offence against subsection (1), (2) or (3) merely by, as part of his or her business, printing or publishing an advertisement for another person.

151. Information to appear in advertisements

- (1) A person must not advertise a professional service, or a business providing professional service, unless -
 - (a) if a registrant provides the service, or carries on the business, under a business name that is the registrant's own name - the registrant's name is stated in the advertisement; or
 - (b) otherwise - the business name notified to the board under section 151(1), (3) or (4) is stated in the advertisement.

Maximum penalty - 50 penalty points.

- (2) A printer or publisher does not commit an offence against subsection (1) merely by, as part of his or her business, printing or publishing an advertisement for another person.

One Penalty unit is equivalent to \$75.00, so the maximum penalty a court may impose for a breach of section 150 is \$15,000.00.

Dentists and Dental Specialists intending to advertise are advised to ensure that they comply with all sections of the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001*. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Board on telephone 3225 2508.

Business Name Requirements

The *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001* affects the use of business names by Dentists and Dental Specialists. The provisions about business names in the new Act are as follows:

148 Notification of Business Names etc.

- (1) A registrant must, before carrying on a business providing professional services under a business name other than the registrant's own name, give the Board notice of the business name.

Maximum penalty - 10 penalty units

- (2) Subsection (1) applies whether or not the business name is registered under the *Business Names Act 1962*.
- (3) An individual who is not a registrant must, before carrying on a business providing professional services, give the Board notice of-
 - (a) the business name of the business (whether or not the name is registered under the *Business Names Act 1962*); and
 - (b) the name and address of the individual.

Maximum penalty - 10 penalty points

- (4) A corporation must, before carrying on a business providing professional services, give the Board notice of-
 - (a) the business name of the business (whether or not the name is registered under the *Business Names Act 1962*); and
 - (b) the name and principal address of the corporation under the *Corporations Act*; and
 - (c) the names and addresses of-
 - (i) If the corporation is a corporation under the *Corporations Act* - the directors of the corporation; or
 - (ii) If the corporation is not a corporation under the *Corporations Act* - the members of the governing body of the corporation.

Maximum penalty for subsection (4) - 50 penalty units.

149 Notification of Change in Business Names etc.

- (1) This section applies if-
 - (a) a person has given the Board notice under section 148; and
 - (b) there is a change in the information contained in the Notice
- (2) The person must, within 14 days after the happening of the change, give the Board notice of the change.

Maximum penalty - 10 penalty units.

- (3) The person does not commit an offence against section 148 during the period of 14 days after the happening of the change if the person complies with subsection (2).

Requirement to Notify of Change in Circumstances

It is a requirement of the Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001 for a registrant to notify the Board of changes of name, address, special purpose activity if the registrant ceases to be qualified for registration. The maximum penalty is 10 penalty units (currently \$750-00).

Dental Practitioners Registration Regulation 2001

Dental Hygienists

The following is provided with a view to informing registrants to ensure that if they employ a Dental Hygienist, that the Dental Hygienist has been approved by the Board to undertake the prescribed duties. A situation arose where an orthodontist obtained approval to employ a Dental Hygienist only to discover that the Dental Hygienist had not been approved to undertake the prescribed orthodontic duties.

Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999

Inappropriate Touching

As a result of an investigation of an allegation by a Dental Assistant of inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature, undertakings with the registrant's agreement were entered into for six months. The undertakings related to changing practice to ensure that a perception of inappropriate or inadvertent touching of patients was avoided.

At the conclusion of the six months, the Board was satisfied that the registrant had complied with the undertakings.

Requirement to notify certain convictions, judgements and settlements and certain events

An amendment to the *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999*, makes it an offence for a registrant to fail to notify the Board of the following information:

- a conviction of an indictable offence.
- a conviction of an offence under any health practitioner registration Act in any jurisdiction (including foreign countries).
- a judgement or settlement of a negligence matter to which the registrant is a party.
- Disciplinary action or the cancellation, suspension or imposition on the registrant's registration under any health practitioner registration Act in any jurisdiction (including foreign countries).

Notification must be made in the approved form within 30 days of the event occurring. Failure to notify the Board of this information makes a Dentist or Dental Specialist liable to a penalty of up to \$3,750.00 and/or disciplinary action.

Registrants are directed to sections 385A-385C of *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999* for further information about this matter. This Act can be accessed on the Board's website (www.dentalboard.qld.gov.au).

Board Policies

The following Board policies can be accessed on the Board's website, www.dentalboard.qld.gov.au or by telephoning the Office on 3225 2508:

Policy #1

Prescribed Particulars Registered under Mutual Recognition

Policy #4

Infection Control Guidelines

Policy #5

Policy on complaint about dental registrants

Policy #6

Dentists Request to employ more than one Dental Hygienist

Policy #7

Registration of overseas trained Dentists holding the ADC certificate

Policy #8

General Anaesthesia and Conscious Sedation in Dentistry

Policy #9

Dentists Infected with Blood Borne Viruses

Policy #10

Urine Drug Screening Program

Policy #11

Dentists Entering Supervised Practice

Policy #14

Qualifications for General Registration

Policy #15

Qualifications for Specialist Registration

Policy #8 General Anaesthesia and Conscious Sedation in Dentistry

In relation to Board Policy #8, the Drugs and Poisons Services, Queensland Health advises that for Queensland Health certification, the Graduate Diploma in Clinical Dentistry conducted by the University of Sydney is the course of training which Dentists must successfully complete to obtain, possess and administer Fentanyl in Queensland.

As a result of a request from a registrant, the Board has approved that the Diploma in Dental Sedation, United Medical and Dental School of Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital is a qualification acceptable to the Board for the purposes of Policy #8.

Board Guidelines

Guidelines on Dental Records, March 1999

The Guidelines on Dental Records, March 1999 were amended on 1 May 2001 by the insertion, after section 3.2.4, of the following:

“3.2.5 Charting for patients seeking emergency care:

- when patients attending for the first time require emergency treatment and the treatment is limited to addressing the immediate problem, dentists should at least record all information relevant to the emergency and its treatment.”

The Guidelines are currently being reviewed.

The Guidelines are available on the Board's website or by telephoning the Office on 3225 2508.

Guidelines For Duty Of Care In Team Dentistry

Dental Hygienists have a duty of care to both their patients and the members of the dental team to ensure that safe and effective treatment is provided.

It is the Dental Hygienist's responsibility to undertake only those procedures legally permitted by the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001* and the *Dental Practitioners Registration Regulation 2001*.

The Dental Hygienist has the following responsibilities:

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of every patient;
- understand the role of all members of the dental team;
- to perform only those duties which the Dental Hygienists are legally permitted/listed to undertake;
- carry out procedures prescribed by the dental practitioner in a safe and responsible manner;
- refer all clinical observations to the dental practitioner for direction in treatment or referral to Dental Specialists;
- perform adequate written documentation of procedures carried out and instructions given to the patient (keep accurate records);
- communicate effectively with both the dental team and the patient;
- observe patient confidentiality at all times;
- be aware of their status in relation to transmissible blood borne diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C and comply with the Board's policy #9 on Blood borne viruses.

Guidelines for Use of Bleaching Agents by Dental Hygienists

The Board has adopted the following Guidelines for use of Bleaching Agents by Dental Hygienists.

Background

The use of bleaching agent to lighten the colour of vital teeth has become a common part of general dental practice. However, the procedures involved can be potentially hazardous to the patient, and the process of bleaching involves chemical changes which are essentially irreversible.

Hydrogen peroxide is the active bleaching agent in professionally applied dental bleaching products. The effective concentration of hydrogen peroxide varies from concentrations as low as 3% for whitening toothpastes to 35% in some office based bleaching products. Many bleaching products available contain carbamide (urea) peroxide which is more stable than hydrogen peroxide but generates hydrogen peroxide as the active bleaching agent. The application of energy to the hydrogen peroxide in the form of heat, high intensity visible light, laser light or other energy forms accelerates the action of hydrogen peroxide.

While weak solutions of hydrogen peroxide have been used in the oral cavity for many years with few problems, when used in higher concentrations the potential for adverse effects on the oral tissue is high.

WorkSafe Australia's current guidelines designate hydrogen peroxide at concentrations above 5% as a hazardous substance. Direct exposure of the skin, eyes and mucous membranes to hydrogen peroxide may cause severe irritation or burns, while ingestion may cause irritation to the oesophagus and stomach resulting in bleeding or sudden distension.

Percolation of hydrogen peroxide into the pulpal tissues via exposed dentine and enamel fractures can lead to pulpal inflammation. For these reasons it is necessary to take great care when handling and using hydrogen peroxide bleaching agents especially in the higher concentrations (above 20%).

The application of heat and other forms of energy such as light from a plasma arc lamp or laser accelerates the action of hydrogen peroxide, but the incorrect application of these forms of energy may also cause pulpal damage to the tooth.

While the *Dental Practitioners Registration Regulation 2001* allows Dental Hygienists to undertake the topical application of solutions prescribed by a Dentist or Dental Specialist, this Regulation was written before the widespread use of hydrogen peroxide for the bleaching of teeth. It was rather intended to permit these dental auxiliaries to apply topical fluoride as a care prevention measure.

The Dental Board is concerned that some Dentists or Dental Specialists are instructing Dental Hygienists to use bleaching products which are potentially hazardous to the patient and that the procedures needed to apply the agents are clearly outside the scope of the Dental Hygienist's training.

Guidelines

The following guidelines should be followed when prescribing bleaching is to be carried out by Dental Hygienists:

Bleaching agents should only be used under prescription by a Dentist. Dental Hygienists must be aware of the hazards and side effects of the materials they are using. Dental Hygienists should have instruction in the safe use of the materials prescribed. This includes reviewing the relevant Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) as well as the manufacturer's instructions for use. Dental Hygienists should not apply materials containing the equivalent of 20% hydrogen peroxide or greater. Dental Hygienists should not apply heat or other energy (including lasers and high intensity lamps) to the bleaching agents.

Board Notice - Anti-Snoring Devices

Following consideration of a complaint, the Dental Board of Queensland is satisfied that the provision of a mandibular advancement splint by any person other than a dentist, (including a registered dental prosthetist) is the illegal practice of dentistry.

The Dental Board of Queensland strongly advises that it is ***totally inappropriate*** for a dentist or medical practitioner to prescribe or refer a patient for an anti-snoring device to a dental technician or dental prosthetist. If the dentist or medical practitioner is not competent to provide this treatment then they should refer the patient to an appropriately trained general dental practitioner or specialist.

The Board's reasons for this decision are:

- The *Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists Registration Act 2001* does not provide for Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists to provide anti-snoring devices;
- Anti-snoring devices are orthodontic devices;
- the literature outlines many clinical consequences for teeth and the temporomandibular joints following the use of anti-snoring devices.
- Anti-snoring devices should be provided by trained dental practitioners following assessment by specialist medical practitioners and their use should be monitored by both the dental practitioner and medical practitioner.

The Dental Board also advises that the clinical management of current patients using such devices should be immediately referred to an appropriately trained specialist or general practitioner.

It is the intention of the Dental Board to take all necessary steps to ensure that the public of Queensland are only treated by appropriately trained and competent dental practitioners.

Accordingly, the Dental Board will fully pursue any future complaint of a person, other than a dentist or medical practitioner, undertaking clinical treatment of snoring or sleep apnoea with a dental device.

Rick Olive
Chairman
Dental Board of Queensland
September 2002

Statistics

Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2002

The Board maintains a Register of Dentists and Dental Specialists. Every registered Dental Specialist is also a registered Dentist as only registered Dentists in Queensland may apply to the Board for registration as a Dental Specialist.

As at 30 June 2002 there were 2,017 registered Dentists and 226 registered Dental Specialists representing net increases since June 2001 of 47 Dentists and 14 Dental Specialists.

The 2,017 registered Dentists comprised 2,005 general registrants, 3 provisional general registrants and 9 special purpose registrants. The 226 registered Dental Specialists comprised 224 general registrants and 2 provisional registrants.

The net changes in the registrant numbers in the reporting period are the product of significant numbers of additions and deletions to the Register. In total during the year, 163 Dentists and 15 Dental Specialists were added to the Register for the first time.

An analysis of the registration data base as at 30 June 2002 provides the following information.

Gender Groupings of Queensland Registrants

- 76% of Dentists were male; 24% were female.
- 86% of Dental Specialists were male; 14% were female

Age Groupings of Queensland Registrants

Age Grouping	% of Dentists	% of Dental Specialists
Under 25 years	3%	0%
25-34 years	23%	6%
35-44 years	29%	36%
45-54 years	23%	31%
55 years and over	22%	27%
Total	100%	100%

Geographical Distribution of Queensland Registrants

- 89% of Dentists gave their addresses on the Register as within Queensland; 11% had address outside Queensland.
- 85% of Dental Specialists gave their address on the Register as within Queensland; 15% had addresses outside of Queensland
- Of the Dentists with addresses within Queensland, 50% had addresses within Brisbane and 50% had addresses elsewhere in Queensland.
- Of the Dental Specialists with addresses within Queensland, 65% has addresses within Brisbane and 35% had addresses elsewhere in Queensland.

The geographical statistics are based on an analysis of post codes of the addresses of the registrants as shown on the Registers. In some cases the Register address differs from the practice address of a registrant. Registrants with addresses outside of Queensland have chosen to retain Queensland registration even though, in most cases, they do not currently practise their profession in Queensland.

The Annual Report is available on request of the Office (telephone 3225 2508)

Numbers of registrants with multiple current registration

Source: Dentists Labourforce Survey Queensland 1999 and 2000, Queensland Health

	1999	2000
Qld and NSW only	58	67
Qld and Vic only	13	18
Qld and SA only	4	4
Qld and WA only	1	0
Qld and ACT only	1	2
Qld and NT only	1	0
Qld and TAS only	0	2
Dentists Re-registered in QLD and one other State	78	93
Qld, NSW and SA	6	5
Qld, NSW and ACT	2	1
Qld, NSW and NT	2	0
Qld, NSW and TAS	1	2
Qld, NSW and WA	1	0
Qld, NSW and VIC	7	7
Qld, NSW, VIC & ACT	1	1
Qld, NSW, VIC & SA	0	1
Qld, NSW, VIC, SA, WA	0	2
Qld, NSW, SA, ACT, NT	1	0
Qld, NSW, SA & TAS	1	1
Qld, NSW, TAS and NT	1	1
Qld, VIC and TAS	2	1
Qld, VIC and NT	1	0
Qld, WA and NT	1	0
Dentists Re-registered in QLD and more than one other State	27	23
Total Dentists Re-registered in QLD and at least one other State	105	116

On-line Access to Registers

The Board is pleased to advise that on-line access to the public details on the Register of Dentists and Dental Specialists, commenced from 30 September 2002.

Providing on-line access to the Register will enhance public protection by making the information about who is authorised to practise more directly accessible. In addition, it enables the Board to provide more efficient services particularly to consumers, employers and professional associations.

It is important to note that the details accessible through the on-line service are those which are already publicly available at request through the public workstation available at the Office of the Health Practitioner Registration Boards. On-line access to the Register is therefore only an alternative medium of access and is consistent with the system of registration that establishes public Registers. The public nature of the Register provides the mechanism through which anyone can identify those who meet the requirements for registration and also assists in preventing those who are not registered from using the professional titles or holding themselves out as a registrant.

Providing on-line access to the Register will not disadvantage those who do not have access to internet services. This is because on-line access merely provides an alternative medium of access. In the interests of equity, the current non internet access mechanisms will be maintained by the Boards.

Issues in relation to security of the Register and the information technology infrastructure of the Office have been addressed during the development of the on-line program. All security risks have been identified and design of the program has ensured that all identified risks have been addressed. Addressing these risks has enabled the Board to provide on-line access to the live data held on the electronic register. This means that any changes to publicly available details held on the Register are immediately available through the on-line access program. Providing such immediate access ensures that users of the service have up to date information upon which to base their decisions.

On-line access to the Board's Register is available through the Office website, the address of which is www.healthregboards.qld.gov.au. In addition, each Board's Register is available through its individual websites (www.dentalboard.qld.gov.au).

Undergraduate Prize in Oral Pathology and Oral Medicine

Since 1997, the Board has been sponsoring an Undergraduate Prize in Oral Pathology and Oral Medicine. The Board gave approval for the prize to be awarded to the Bachelor of Dental Science student at the University of Queensland who having enrolled in the subjects of DN401 Oral Pathology and DN502 Oral Medicine for the first time, had the highest aggregate pass in those subjects.

The Board has the pleasure in reporting that the Dental Board of Queensland Prize in Oral Pathology and Oral Medicine 2001 has been jointly awarded to Kate Barker and Tamara Warren.

“What Dentists Need to Know”

The Queensland Health publication “What Dentists Need to Know” is about the management of drugs and poisons and is available on the Queensland Health Internet site: www.health.qld.gov.au/HealthyLiving (open and click on information for health professionals, then click on oral health, then scroll down to Health (Drugs & Poisons) Regulations 1996: What Dentists Need to Know).

Dental Board of Queensland website

Through the Dental Board of Queensland's internet site, www.dentalboard.qld.gov.au, we aim to provide information about the Board activities and procedures. Please feel free to use this site as an avenue of communication between you and the Board.

In addition to documents indicated earlier in this Bulletin, also accessible are the following:

1. Board Functions & Meetings
Board Meeting Schedule
Board Members
Functions of the Board
2. Contact Us
3. Registration Requirements
Requirements for Registration
Requirements under Mutual Recognition
Restoration Requirements
4. Register Change Requests
5. Business Names
6. Complaints
7. Health Assessment & Monitoring
8. Important Links
Links to Other Sites
Public Access
9. Document Libraries
Office of Health Practitioner Registration Boards
Privacy Plan
Code of Conduct for Board Members
Strategic Plan
Statement on Sexual Relationships between
Health Practitioners and their Patients
10. Dental Hygienist
Application Forms
11. Advertising

The information is also available upon request of the Office (telephone 3225 2508).

Contacts

The Office of the Board is located at:

Address:
Level 19, Forestry House,
160 Mary Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Telephone: (07) 3225 2508
Facsimile: (07) 3225 2527

Email:
dental@healthregboards.com.au

Website:
www.dentalboard.qld.gov.au

Correspondence to the Board to be addressed to:

Executive Officer
Dental Board of Queensland
GPO Box 2438
BRISBANE QLD 4001