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### Chairman's notes

It is two years since the Board first registered dental therapists and dental hygienists under the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001* and distributed the *Code of Practice #1 - Practice of dentistry by dental therapists and dental hygienists*.

Following Board review, an updated Code of Practice was approved by the Minister for Health and took effect on 1 July 2006. A copy is enclosed.

The latest Code of Practice changes the general functions of dental hygienists. New general functions taught through approved courses have been included in the Code of Practice and *Schedule 2B - additional functions of dental auxiliaries* included in the *Dental Practitioners Registration Regulation 2001*.

Previously, many functions were not taught and most dental hygienists were registered with conditions precluding practising those functions. Following these changes, the Board is reviewing all conditions on the Register for dental hygienists. The Board will continue to impose conditions under s133F(1) where dental auxiliary registrants have not had formal training in general functions, but will not impose conditions on additional functions.

Registrants who have completed a qualification in *Schedule 2B* may practise the relevant additional functions. The obligation not to practise functions unless registrants hold formal qualifications is now formally included in the Code of Practice.

As more courses provide training in additional functions, the Board may consider applications from registrants and course providers for approval of qualifications under s139A(2)(d)(ii)(B).

The Board has reviewed its *Policy #4 - Infection control guidelines* and added a check list for practitioners. The checklist captures all the "must" requirements in the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing document printed by the Board and circulated to all registrants last year. This checklist is used by the Board when conducting inspections of registrants' practices during investigations when infection control procedures are an issue.

The Australian Dental Council will conduct an examination of overseas trained dentists at the School of Dentistry, University of Queensland

in August 2006. This will be one of nine exams conducted by the Council in 2006 and the first conducted in Queensland. The Council has become a major contributor to the Australian dental workforce with 110 certificates issued in 2005, compared with 61 in 2004 and 48 in 2003.

Rick Olive  
Chairman

### Renewal of registration

#### Do you want to continue practising as a dental practitioner from 1 July 2006?

Renewal of registration was held in May - June 2006.

To check registration status, visit the Board's website [www.dentalboard.qld.gov.au](http://www.dentalboard.qld.gov.au) under *Public Access*. Current registrations will have registration dates of 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. For more information, contact [renewals@healthregboards.qld.gov.au](mailto:renewals@healthregboards.qld.gov.au) or telephone 3235 4179.

Registrants who did not renew registration by 30 June 2006 but require Queensland registration can apply to restore registration up until 30 September 2006. The registration date will change to the date of restoration and a further fee of \$75.00 will be required.

### Supervision of dental therapists & dental hygienists

Dental practitioners are reminded that the level of supervision for dental therapists and dental hygienists may vary according to the safety and well being of the patient, treatment provided, type of practice and education and experience of team members.

A recently graduated or new team member needs a higher level of supervision than a team established for several years.

A registrant supervising a **dental therapist** should be available at all times:

- for advice and consultation on the functions of a dental therapist; and
- for referral in other matters outside the functions of the dental therapist.

A registrant supervising a **dental hygienist** should be available at all times:

- for advice and consultation on the practice by the dental hygienist of functions in accordance with a written treatment plan prepared by the supervising registrant based on the dentist's initial examination of the patient;
- for support in practice by the dental hygienist of functions for patients with health or treatment complexities, usually on site;
- for advice and consultation on practice by the dental hygienist of functions in an off site facility such as a residential care facility or hospital where a registered nurse or medical practitioner is present; and
- for referral in other matters outside the functions of the dental hygienist.

Dentists are responsible for appropriate supervision, which may be provided by more than one supervising dentist. Dental therapists and dental hygienists must perform functions with appropriate supervision.

### **Mepivacaine**

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From 19 May 2006, the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* allows that, to the extent necessary to perform dental therapists' and dental hygienists' functions under the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act*, any dental therapist or dental hygienist who has successfully

completed a relevant course of training in dental local analgesia or is undergoing the relevant course of training, is authorised to administer the restricted drug mepivacaine.

### **Board Policy # 4 - Infection control guidelines**

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The Board has reviewed its policy on infection control and a copy of the new *Policy #4 – Infection control guidelines* is enclosed. To help dental practitioners maintain appropriate infection control standards, the Board circulated the Department of Health and Ageing document *Infection Control Guidelines for the Prevention of Transmission of Infectious Diseases in the Health Care Setting* to all registrants in May 2005 and has developed a checklist of important issues to be considered (*Attachment A to Policy #4*).

### **Dental Board of Queensland prize**

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

The Board is pleased to report the Dental Board of Queensland Prize in Oral Pathology and Oral Medicine was awarded to Jacqueline Wu for 2004 and Robert Witherspoon for 2005.

### **Professional development programmes - dental hygienists**

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The Board has approved the following courses in functions for dental hygienists:

- *Additional orthodontic functions for dental hygiene practice in Queensland*, University of Queensland (contact email: Janice\_okine@health.qld.gov.au).

- *Orthodontics for dental hygienists and dental therapists*, University of Melbourne (contact Julie Satur, email: juliegs@unimelb.edu.au).
- *Local anaesthesia for dental hygiene practice in Queensland*, University of Queensland (contact email: janice\_okine@health.qld.gov.au).
- *Local anesthesia short course*, University of Adelaide (contact Jennifer Miller email: jennifer.miller@adelaide.edu.au).
- *Local analgesia for dental hygienists*, University of Melbourne (contact Julie Satur email juliegs@unimelb.edu.au).

### **Radiation protection in dentistry**

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The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency has published the *Code of Practice and Safety Guide*, Publication No. 10, Radiation Protection in Dentistry, December 2005. There is a link to the Code of Practice and Safety Guide on the Board's web site ([www.dentalboard.qld.gov.au](http://www.dentalboard.qld.gov.au)).

### **Dental records**

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The Board is concerned by some registrants' record keeping in the investigation of complaints.

Since 2003, there have been three investigations which resulted in undertakings between the Board and registrants which included making and keeping dental records in accordance with the Board's guidelines.

Matters of concern in those investigations included:

- maintaining dental records for all patients including family, friends and employees;
- maintaining adequate dental records, including information about periodontal status;

- maintaining adequate dental records for patients requiring orthodontic treatment, including noting important clinical features at initial consultation and developing/recording comprehensive treatment plans;
- documenting in the patient's treatment record that the registrant has advised patients or guardians of the risk of orthognathic surgery where there is the possibility of continued mandibular growth; and
- the need for registrants to be familiar with the item numbers of the dental schedule.

The Board believes dental records must be maintained at a standard expected from an informed and competent dental practitioner.

The Board's *Guidelines on Dental Records* has been provided to registrants since 1999 and are available on the Board's web site or by contacting the Office.

### **Recency of practice**

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The Board expects to release its draft recency of practice policy for comment shortly in a second round of consultation with the profession.

The first stage of recency of practice consultation began in February 2005, when all 13 health practitioner registration Boards released recency of practice discussion papers.

All major submissions were returned to the Boards by July 2005 and were collated and submitted to the Board for its consideration. The results formed the basis for the draft recency of practice policy.

The draft policy will be on the Board's website so it is available to the public and profession generally and a copy will be sent directly to those who submitted responses to the discussion paper.

All registrants and other interested parties are encouraged to make a submission on this draft policy. Details of how and when to provide comments to the Board will be included with the release of the policy.

Registrants should periodically check the Board's website for the release of the policy.

Once the second round of consultation is completed, the Board will consider changes to the draft Policy. Once finalised and approved by the Board, Queensland Health will develop the policy as a regulation.

### **Australian Dental Council**

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The Australian Dental Council plays an increasingly important role in dental workforce matters. Many more dentists are entering the profession having successfully completed the Council examination process than from any individual Australian university dental school.

In 2002, 37 overseas trained dentists successfully completed the Council examination process, growing to 48 in 2003, 61 in 2004, 110 in 2005 and more expected in 2006.

In 2005, 609 overseas trained dentists sought assessment of qualifications for eligibility to undertake the Council examination process. Successful completion of this process establishes eligibility for registration to practise in Australia.

The number of 2006 applicants will exceed last year and is now running at 10% higher than this time last year.

The number of candidates sitting the Council preliminary examination has increased from 45 – 50 candidates per exam in 2000 to 280 in March 2006. This exam is conducted in Australia and approximately 24 overseas venues twice each year.

The number of candidates sitting the Council final examination has

increased proportionately with nine to be conducted in 2006 against two in 2000.

At present there are candidates from 52 countries in the Council examination system. The most common country of origin is India followed by the Philippines, Brazil, Iraq and Egypt.

The Council is committed to examining all eligible candidates with minimal delay and has achieved this goal to date.

The Council was involved in establishing the Public Sector Dental Workforce Scheme to benefit the public sector of dentistry, especially in rural and remote areas.

The Council is investigating examinations for overseas trained dental hygienists and dental therapists as workforce shortages in these professions are also acute, possibly in association with the Dental Council of New Zealand as the present number of applicants is low.

However, for an adequate and sustainable workforce, Australia requires more graduates from Australian university dental schools.

While the number of graduates will increase in coming years, a significant proportion of this increase will be from overseas students who will not practise in Australia.

The dental workforce is ageing and the baby boomer generation is nearing retirement. There are fewer local graduates than in the 1970s. There will be a significant loss of practising dentists in the next decade.

### **Mandatory disclosure notice - renewal of registration**

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The Board must be satisfied that a registrant is capable of carrying out the duties of a dental practitioner without endangering patients. Sometimes, quality of care may suffer if a practitioner is unwell. The Board has access to a

Health Assessment and Monitoring Program for practitioner health.

If a condition is notified to the Board, registration is renewed and the Board may deal with the matter under Part 7 of the *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999* which provides for the management of impaired registrants.

The Act defines impairment to mean that the registrant has a physical or mental impairment, disability, condition or disorder that detrimentally affects, or is likely to detrimentally affect, the registrant's physical or mental capacity to perform the registrant's profession and includes substance abuse or dependence.

With mutual agreement and cooperation, registrants and the Board work together as partners in rehabilitation.

The Board encourages an atmosphere of self-declaration by registrants. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Health Assessment and Monitoring Program on telephone 32340183.

### **Changes in name, address or qualification or practising under a business name**

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Registrants are required by legislation to notify the Board of any of the following:

- a change in name;
- a change in address (registrants can nominate a preferred address for registration purposes which may be a business or residential address or a postbox, and if a residential address is nominated for registration purposes, may also request via the application and renewal forms that the Office not show that address on the public access Register);
- withdrawal or cancellation of qualification for registration; and

- notice of a business name before carrying on a business providing professional services under a business name other than the registrant's own name (if there is a change to the information in the notice, the registrant must give the Board notice of the change within 14 days).

### **General anaesthesia and conscious sedation in dentistry - fentanyl**

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Under *Board Policy #8 - General anaesthesia and conscious sedation in dentistry*, dentists must successfully complete the Graduate Diploma in Clinical Dentistry conducted by the University of Sydney to obtain, possess and administer fentanyl. The certification of the Graduate Diploma has been extended for a further five years from 24 April 2006.

### **Policy #15 - Qualifications for specialist registration**

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#### **Policy #15 is extended until 31 December 2006**

**Title:** Qualifications for specialist registration under s102(1)(b) and (c) of the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001*.

The Board is responsible under the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001* to ensure only safe and competent dental practitioners are registered to provide dental services.

S102(1) of the Act prescribes "*An applicant for specialist registration in a specialty is qualified for specialist registration in the specialty if...*

- (b) the applicant has 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) the applicant has passed a qualifying examination in the specialty set by or for or recognised by the Board.

S102(2) of the Act prescribes "*In deciding whether subsection (1)(b) is satisfied, the Board may have regard to the following...*

- (a) the advice and recommendation of:
  - (i) an entity recognised by the Board as competent to assess qualifications in the specialty; or
  - (ii) an entity responsible for accrediting courses, or accrediting institutions to educate persons for the specialty; and
- (b) *the attributes of the course leading to the applicant's qualification....."*

These sections of the Act and Policy are applicable to persons applying for specialist registration when those persons have qualifications other than Australian and New Zealand qualifications.

The Act requires that persons seeking registration must have qualifications substantially equivalent to current Australian and New Zealand qualifications. The Board recognises the Australian Dental Council (ADC) as the authority that assesses the standards of and accredits Australian dental qualifications, and the Dental Council of New Zealand (DCNZ) as the authority that assesses the standards of and accredits New Zealand dental qualifications.

1. Consequently, the Board will only accept qualifications under section 102(1)(b) if the ADC has issued a certificate of dental specialist equivalence.

2. As a transitional arrangement, the Board will, until 30 June 2006, continue to recognise for the purposes of section 102(1)(b) those qualifications that were prescribed in Schedule 2 to 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.

### Schedule 2 - Qualifications for registration as a dental specialist

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; or
  - (e) University of Western Australia;
- OR**

2. Qualifications awarded by the Royal Australian College of Dental Surgeons—

- (a) FRACDSDOS.—  
FRACDSOMS;
- (b) FRACDS D. Pros.—  
FRACDSPROS; or
- (c) FRACDS D. Endo.—  
FRACDSEND0; **OR**

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 in—
  - (i) oral surgery and oral medicine;
  - (ii) orthodontics; or
  - (iii) restorative dentistry

awarded by the Royal College of Surgeons;

(b) F.D.S.R.C.P.S. (Glasgow) together with a certification of accreditation in—

- (i) oral surgery and oral medicine;
- (ii) orthodontics; or
- (iii) restorative dentistry

awarded by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons; or

(c) Dip. Orth. R.C.S. (England) together with a certificate of accreditation in orthodontics awarded by the Royal College of Surgeons; **OR**

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; or
- (j) Dip. Oral Path; **OR**

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 two years continuous full-time specialist training at registrar or equivalent level; **OR**

6. Qualifications awarded by the University of Otago, Dunedin—

M.D.S. (1976 and subsequent years); **OR**

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 preparation of dental specialists involving at least two years' full-time training or an equal amount of training on a part-time basis.

### Board policies

The following Board policies can be accessed on the Board's web site, [www.dentalboard.qld.gov.au](http://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 (AMENDED)*

*Policy #5 - Policy on complaints about dental registrants*

*Policy #7 - Registration of overseas trained dentists holding the Australian Dental Council certificate*

*Policy #8 - General anaesthesia and conscious sedation in dentistry*

*Policy #9 Dental practitioners infected with blood borne viruses*

*Policy #10 Urine drug screening program (AMENDED)*

*Policy #11 Dentists entering supervised practice*

*Policy #12 Declarations by registrants of medical conditions under s70(5)(a) of the Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001 during registration renewal periods*

*Policy #14 Qualifications for general registration*

*Policy #15 Qualifications for specialist registration*

## Dental Board of Queensland web site

The Board's web site, [www.dentalboard.qld.gov.au](http://www.dentalboard.qld.gov.au) provides information on Board activities and procedures. Please use this site as an avenue of communication between you and the Board.

Information on the website include:

1. Board functions and meetings
2. Contact details;
3. Dentist and dental specialist registration requirements and restoration requirements;
4. Register change requests;
5. Business names;
6. Complaints;
7. Health assessment and monitoring;
8. Important links to other sites;
9. Public access registers;
10. Document libraries (including Codes of Practice, policies, guidelines and bulletins); and
11. Dental therapists and dental hygienists registration requirements

## Dental Board of Queensland contact details

### The Office of the Board is located at:

Level 19, Forestry House  
160 Mary Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

### Address correspondence to the Board to:

Executive Officer  
Dental Board of Queensland

GPO Box 2438  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Telephone: (07) 3225 2508

Facsimile: (07) 3225 2527

Email: [dental@healthregboards.qld.gov.au](mailto:dental@healthregboards.qld.gov.au)

Web: [www.dentalboard.qld.gov.au](http://www.dentalboard.qld.gov.au)

