



REGISTRANTS UPDATE

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Welcome to another edition of the Dental Board Bulletin. It contains information of interest to all registrants and I particularly draw your attention to the three items listed below.

New Board members

The Dental Board of Queensland began a new four year term on 17 May 2007. The Minister re-appointed Ms Jenny Bishop, Dr Bruce Newman, Dr Margaret O'Donnell (public member), Ms Gloria Silcock and Dr Susan Upham as Board members. I was appointed as Chair. I wish to sincerely thank Dr Rick Olive (Chair), Dr Elizabeth Holder, Dr Lyn McAllan and Ms Anne Milner (lawyer member) for their substantial contributions to the Board over several years. Dr Olive was a Board member for more than 13 years of service, as a member of the Board between 14 April 1994 and 17 April 1996 and Chairman from 18 April 1996 to 7 May 2007. Rick successfully implemented new legislation and left a valuable legacy having been the architect of the advisory committee structure of the Board as well as a very competent steward in developing the Board's current policies and guidelines.

I wish to welcome five new members to the Board: Associate Professor Susan Buchanan, Dr Robert McCray (Deputy Chair), Ms Myra Pincott (public member), Mr Stuart Unwin (lawyer member) and Professor Laurence Walsh. All members have been appointed until 16 May 2011.

National Registration and Accreditation

There is still a lot of uncertainty over the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) proposal for a national system of registration and accreditation of education and training. The original implementation date of 1 July 2008 now seems unlikely; however, to date, official advice on a revised commencement date has not been received. In the meantime the current Board will continue to work within the existing legislative framework and monitor developments on this matter.

Recency of Practice

The Board has engaged in two rounds of consultation over the last two years on this issue and has now prepared a policy for approval by the Minister for Health. Once the relevant Regulation is gazetted the requirements of the policy will need to be met by registrants.

As indicated in the consultation documents the Board will require all registrants to undertake a *form of recent practice* and some *other activity* in order to demonstrate an adequate connection with the profession. The *other activities* include continuing professional development or alternatives such as research or formal education.

The Board anticipates that the Recency of Practice requirements will commence at the time of renewal of registration in July 2008. Details of the Board's policy will be circulated to all registrants and will be available on the Board's website, prior to the commencement date.

Ralph Neller
Chairman

Vale George McKelvey

The Board held a minute's silence at its 1 May 2007 meeting as a sign of the Board's deep respect for its former President, Dr George McKelvey who had recently passed away.

Dr McKelvey had a distinguished career and was President of the Dental Board of Queensland from 1977 to 1989.

General Anaesthesia and Conscious Sedation

Since the last Board Bulletin, the Minister for Health on 4 May 2007 approved the Board's Code of Practice #3, *General Anaesthesia and Conscious Sedation as an Adjunct to the Practice of Dentistry*

The objectives of this Code of Practice are to describe the standards for the provision of general anaesthesia and conscious sedation in dentistry by ensuring that:

- facilities and staff are appropriate;
- present protocols are safe;
- dentists have undertaken the appropriate training to safely administer conscious sedation; and
- dentists providing conscious sedation continue to develop their knowledge and skills by continuing education in this area.

It also assists consumers to understand the requirements for the provision of general anaesthesia and conscious sedation in dentistry.

The Code of Practice is available on the Board's web site (www.dentalboard.qld.gov.au) or by contacting the Office (e-mail: colliep@healthregboards.qld.gov.au or telephone: 07 32252507)

Infection Control Guidelines

The Board's Policy #4, Infection Control Guidelines includes on page 2 the web site address for the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing's document, *Infection Control Guidelines for the Prevention of Transmission of Infectious Diseases in the Health Care Setting*. The web site address has changed from www.icg.health.gov.au to www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/Publishing.nsf/Content/icg-guidelines-index.

Policy # 14, Qualifications for General Registration

Board Policy #14 has been extended until 31 December 2008. The Policy provides for a transitional arrangement, whereby the Board will continue to recognise for the purposes of registration as a dentist certain qualifications from New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Ireland that were prescribed in Schedule 1 to the *Dental By-law 1988* as at 31 December 2001.

Short-term registration

The *Dental Practitioners Registrations Act 2001* now provides for short-term registration of up to 5 weeks, for which no application fee or registration fee will apply. The Board must be satisfied that the applicant has a good reason for a period of registration of that length. The purpose of short-term registration is to accommodate such activities as locums, continuing professional development programs and conference attendance.

Special Needs Dentistry

There is now a dental specialty of Special Needs Dentistry in Queensland with the prescribed course being the Master of Dental Surgery (Special Needs Dentistry) conducted by the University of Otago, New Zealand. Professor Laurence Walsh was the first registrant in the new specialty and was registered under Mutual Recognition from Victoria.

Public Sector Dental Workforce Scheme

The Public Sector Dental Workforce Scheme (PSDW Scheme) has been introduced in Australia to help alleviate workforce shortages in the public sector, particularly in rural and remote areas. Under this Scheme graduates from some dental education and training programs in Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and the United States are eligible to participate. Those eligible will be granted an exemption from the Australian Dental Council (ADC) Preliminary Examination and a form of restricted registration with the Board to enable them to practise in the public sector for a period up to three years during which time the ADC Final Examination must be successfully undertaken.

Dentists interested in the PSDW Scheme should in the first instance make an application for Special Purpose registration using Form D301 and the supporting information sheet which are available under Application Forms on the Board's web site (www.dentalboard.qld.gov.au) or by contacting the Office (Telephone 07 32252508).

25th Conference of Presidents and Registrars of the Dental Boards of Australia and New Zealand

The Board's Chairman and the Principal Coordinator, Mr Peter Collie attended the 25th Conference of Presidents and Registrars of the Dental Boards of Australia and New Zealand in Perth Western Australia in August 2007. Matters discussed included:

- > Professional indemnity insurance - this is a requirement for registration in some jurisdictions;
- > Council Of Australian Governments (COAG) - National Professional Registration and Accreditation Schemes.
- > Policy in relation to dental care workers with blood borne virus infection including HIV.
- > Qualifications for registration as dentist - uniformity within Australia.
- > Registration of dentists with United Kingdom qualifications - Board Policy #14 - most other Australian and New Zealand jurisdictions continue to accept United Kingdom and Ireland qualifications for registration as dentists.
- > Legislation change in Victoria to enable the registration of dental specialists with post-graduate qualifications from Australian universities who do not possess a base registrable qualification as a dentist.



- › Dental auxiliaries - action to remove requirement for public sector employment only for dental therapists in New South Wales is pending.
- › Teeth whitening treatments by non-registrants – most jurisdictions were seeking advice about possible legal action; the different definitions of ‘dentistry’ in each State’s legislation influences the strength of legal argument against non-registrants performing this treatment.
- › Public Sector Dental Workforce Scheme - Boards to inform Australian Dental Council (ADC) about registrants under the Scheme so ADC can ensure they sit for the final exam within the 3 year timeframe.
- › Recency of Practice - Boards to share advice on the availability of skills assessment or upgrade courses offered in jurisdictions for persons not meeting the recency of practice requirements.

Specialist Registration

A practitioner may be registered in Queensland under the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001* or mutual recognition legislation.

The *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001* requires that a dental specialist must first register as a dentist to be eligible for registration as a dental specialist.

Mutual recognition provides that a person registered in another State or Territory is eligible for registration in an equivalent occupation in the other States and Territories.

As a result of dental specialists being registered in Victoria without registering as dentists, under mutual recognition there are now a small number of dental specialists registered in Queensland who are not registered as dentists. This situation arose with dentists holding non-registrable dentist qualifications but a registrable specialist qualification.

Teeth whitening by unregistered persons

The Board is ongoing in its consideration of teeth whitening being performed by unregistered persons who are not qualified in the diagnosis and treatment of conditions of the teeth and mouth. The Board considers that procedures involved in teeth whitening can be potentially hazardous to the patient and that the process of bleaching can involve changes to teeth which are essentially irreversible.

When advised about non-registrants performing teeth whitening, the Board draws their attention to section 139A of the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001* which prohibits a person who is not a registered dentist or medical practitioner from practising dentistry. The Act provides for a maximum penalty of 1,000 penalty units (\$75,000).

‘Dentistry’ is defined to mean all or any of the following:

- (a) diagnosis of conditions of the mouth;
- (b) fitting or intra-oral adjustment for a person of artificial teeth or corrective or restorative dental appliances;
- (c) performance of exposure prone or irreversible procedures on a person’s teeth, jaw, mouth and associated structures.

‘Irreversible procedure’ is defined to mean a treatment, or series of treatments, that causes a permanent change to the affected hard or soft tissues.

The Board, in consultation with regulatory authorities in other jurisdictions, is continuing to investigate and review evidence of the safety and efficacy of teeth whitening treatments provided by non-registrants.

Ferric sulphate

From 20 April 2007, the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* was amended to include ferric sulphate in the list of S2 poisons that dental therapists may use to perform functions under the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001*.

Health Quality and Complaints Commission Standards

The Health Quality and Complaints Commission (HQCC) (formerly the Health Rights Commission) is an independent body dedicated to improving the quality and safety of health services in Queensland. The HQCC has developed the following standards to assist health service providers understand their responsibilities to improve the quality of health services pursuant to section 20 of the *Health Quality and Complaints Commission Act 2006*:

Review of Hospital-related Deaths

Management of Acute Myocardial Infarction on and Following Discharge

Surgical Safety

Hand Hygiene

Credentialling and Scope of Clinical Practice

Complaints Management

Providers Duty to Improve the Quality of Health Services

Standards were selected after consideration of factors determining the health and well being of users of health services and the processes necessary to protect their health and well-being. The basis of consideration was: burden of disease; severity of impact on users; frequency of occurrence; major process/system failings in patient safeguards; and legislated mandate. The HQCC has produced a manual about the Standards which is available at www.hqcc.qld.gov.au.

All registrants need to be aware of these Standards and ensure compliance.



Changes of name, address or qualification

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

- › a change of name.
- › a change of address. Registrants can nominate their preferred address for registration purposes. This may be a business or residential address or a Post Office box. If you nominate your residential address for registration purposes, you may also request that the Office not show that address on the Register that can be accessed by the public. The Office will have on its application and renewal forms an opportunity for registrants to indicate their preference.
- › the withdrawal or cancellation of qualification for registration.

Record Keeping

Poor record keeping by registrants has been identified as an issue in several recent Board investigations of unrelated matters. Accurate records are clearly in the best interest of all parties involved in the dental setting. It is timely to remind registrants of the Board's expectations as described in the Dental Board of Queensland *Guidelines on Dental Records* (2003).

As a brief summary the following should be kept in mind when recording information:

Dental records should be legible, accurate and concise. They should be readily understood by any third party (particularly another dental practitioner) accessing the record;

For each entry in a dental record, the person making the entry should be easily identifiable;

The record should contain an adequate medical history which is updated regularly;

The record should describe the presenting complaint, relevant history, clinical findings and diagnosis;

The record should contain details of drugs prescribed or administered.

A full copy of the Guidelines is available on the Board's website and registrants should take the time to familiarise themselves with the Guidelines

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 07 32474866:

- Policy #1** Prescribed Particulars Registered under Mutual Recognition
- Policy #4** Infection Control Guidelines
- Policy #5** Policy on Complaints about Dental Registrants
- Policy #7** Registration of Overseas Trained Dentists Holding the ADC Certificate

Policy#9 Dental Practitioners Infected with Blood Borne Viruses

Policy #10 Urine Drug Screening Program

Policy #11 Impaired Dentists Entering Supervised Practice

Policy #12 Declarations by Registrants of Medical Conditions under Section 70(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

Policy #16 Qualifications for Dental Auxiliary Registration under Sections 133C(1)(b) and (c) of the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001*

Policy #17 Qualifications for approval of additional functions under section 139A(2)(d)(ii)(B) of the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001*

Policy #18 Vital bleaching by Dental Therapists and Dental Hygienists

Dental Board of Queensland website

The Board's website, www.dentalboard.qld.gov.au, aims to provide information about the Board's activities and procedures. Please feel free to use this site as an avenue of communication between you and the Board.

Contacts

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