

Communiqué

February 2020 meeting of the Dental Board of Australia

The Dental Board of Australia (the Board) held its 115th meeting on Wednesday 26 February 2020 in Melbourne.

This communiqué highlights the key discussions and considerations covered during the Board 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 within your work or organisation.

National Registration and Accreditation Scheme 2020 combined meeting

The Board meeting was held on 26 February 2020 to coincide with the annual National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) combined meeting where entities in the scheme got together to discuss the focus for the next 12 months.

Representatives of the Australian Dental Council, the Dental Council of New South Wales and Dental Council of New Zealand attended the meeting.

Support service for dental practitioners

Development of a new independent national referral service for dental practitioners and students to anonymously seek help about their health if they need it is now underway. This service will provide an opportunity for practitioners and students to voluntarily access support early, and to receive timely and appropriate information about how to engage with formal supports and/or treatment when required.

The early intervention and prevention service will provide a 24-hour telephone, brief intervention counselling, health information support and referral services. More information will be available closer to the launch date, in the second half of 2020.

Australian Dental Council opens consultation period on draft accreditation standards

The Australian Dental Council (ADC) has opened the consultation period for the proposed changes to the ADC/Dental Council (New Zealand) (DC(NZ)) Accreditation standards for dental practitioner programs (the Standards).

Consultation will run until 5pm AEST Monday 20 April 2020.

Commenced in 2019, the review aims to ensure the Standards remain in-line with contemporary benchmarks and expectations, while maintaining a focus on public safety. To assist with the process, external influences and stakeholder feedback were used to identify key focus areas to guide the review.

These focus areas are:

- Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and Maori health outcomes;
- consumer involvement;
- inter-professional learning and practice; and
- assessment.

The ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Revised draft for consultation) (the draft Standards) proposes changes to the Standards in each of the key focus areas. The changes aim to bring the Standards in-line with the current regulatory environment.

Making a submission

The ADC invites anyone with an interest to provide feedback on the draft Standards. This includes, but is not limited to, practitioners from the dental professions, education and training providers, professional associations, employers, stakeholders, and dental consumers.

To find out more about the submission process, please visit adc.org.au/Accreditation-Standards-Review

The revised Standards will then be considered for endorsement by the ADC before being submitted to the Board for approval.

Scope of practice update – stakeholder forums

The Board invites dental practitioners and stakeholders to attend information forums about the revised Scope of practice registration standard in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth in March (registration details available [here](#)).

The forums are the first three in a series of forums to explain the forthcoming changes to the registration standard for scope of practice. Forums will be held in all capital cities and in some regional centres (more details will be published on the Board's website):

Where	When
Sydney	Fri 13 March
Melbourne	Fri 20 March
Perth	Thurs 26 March
Adelaide	Thurs 16 April
Darwin	TBA
Newcastle	Fri 15 May
Brisbane	Friday 22 May
Canberra	Fri 5 June
Hobart	TBA
Orange	TBA
Wagga Wagga	TBA
Rockhampton	TBA
Cairns	TBA

- Advance copy: [Revised Scope of practice registration standard](#)
- Advance copy: [Revised Scope of practice guidelines](#)

The forums are one of many activities underway to help dental practitioners understand their obligations under the revised standard.

The Board will also host a national webinar in coming months for practitioners and stakeholders who are unable to attend a forum. The webinar will be recorded and published on a webpage dedicated to implementation of the revised standard.

A webpage, which will be launched soon, will be a 'Know your scope of practice' hub where practitioners can find information, including a reflective practice tool and FAQs. These resources and other materials will be progressively published in the lead up to the standard coming into effect.

COVID-19

The Board considered aspects of preparedness for an Australian based COVID-19 outbreak, including the supply of personal protective equipment. The Board confirmed its Guidelines on infection control remain in force to provide necessary public protections.

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](#). Your email

settings may need to be changed to receive emails from Ahpra or the Board and to avoid misdirection to junk mail.

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

11 March 2020