

Our ref: DentalBoard2011-104
Hon John Hill MP

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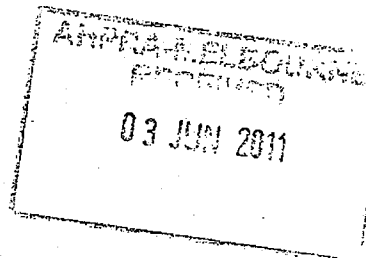


Government
of South Australia

2011MHE-01592

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Dear Dr Lockwood

I am in receipt of correspondence from the Cosmetic Physicians Society of Australasia Inc about the practices of the Australian Academy of Dento-Facial Aesthetics (AADFA).

I am advised that the AADFA has been promoting the use of BOTOX® and dermal fillers by dentists for aesthetic purposes, including minimising dynamic lines (wrinkles and 'crow's feet') and eliminating gummy smiles. I am further advised that the AADFA is proposing to conduct a number of training modules for registered dentists for this purpose.

I understand that the Dental Board of Australia (the Dental Board) has issued an interim policy on the use of BOTOX®. This policy only provides support for the use of BOTOX® by registered dentists with education, training and competence for the treatment of temporomandibular joint disorder and dysfunction. I am concerned that the AADFA may be acting outside the interim policy of the Dental Board.

Under the South Australian *Controlled Substances Act 1984* (the Act), a dentist may sell, administer or prescribe a Schedule 4 prescription drug (including Botulinum toxin type A [BOTOX®]) if they are 'acting in the ordinary course of their profession'. It is the responsibility of the Dental Board to determine what constitutes using BOTOX® in the ordinary course of dental practice. If the Dental Board does not support the use of BOTOX® for aesthetic purposes, then any dentist who is using BOTOX® for this purpose may be committing an offence under the Act.

While the Department of Health has no record of South Australian dentists using BOTOX® for aesthetic purposes, I am concerned that this may change if AADFA conducts its proposed training module in Adelaide.

I would appreciate the Dental Board considering the practices of AADFA, with a view to ensuring that the practice of dentistry is clearly defined so that practitioners are not inadvertently committing offences either under the National Law or South Australian legislation.

Yours sincerely

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Date: 3/5/11