

Communiqué

February and March 2021 meetings of the Dental Board of Australia

The Dental Board of Australia (the Board) held its 126th and 127th meetings on Friday 26 February and Friday 26 March respectively. The Board and its committees continue to meet via video conferencing since March 2020.

This communiqué highlights the key discussions and considerations covered during the Board meetings and 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.

Professional competencies of a newly qualified dental practitioner: review

The Board was pleased to note that the Australian Dental Council (ADC), the authority assigned by the Board to accredit education providers and programs of study, is embarking on a review of the [Professional competencies of a newly qualified dental practitioner](#) (the competencies). The review will be carried out in 2021. The ADC advised the Board of its indicative timelines and invited the Board to nominate a representative to the advisory committee for the review of the competencies. The Board is looking forward to participating in the review.

Review of the Guidelines on infection control

The Board is reviewing its [Guidelines on infection control](#) which were developed by the Board in 2010 under section 39 of the National Law.¹ These guidelines, now due for scheduled review, were developed to provide guidance to dental practitioners and apply to all dentists, dental prosthetists, dental hygienists, dental therapists, dental specialists and oral health therapists.

The Board's preliminary consultation is now underway and will be followed by public consultation in the second half of 2021.

Fact sheet on teeth whitening under review

The Board is reviewing information in its current [Fact sheet: The use of teeth whitening products by dental practitioners](#).

The fact sheet explains the roles of various regulators, including the Therapeutic Goods Administration and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission in regulating teeth whitening products and what the Board expects of dental practitioners when using teeth whitening products in their practice.

It also highlights the importance of adhering to relevant state and territory drugs and poisons legislation and regulations when using teeth whitening products.

The updated fact sheet will be available before the middle of the year.

Recruitment drive for national committee positions

In the past month, the Board invited applications for positions on its decision-making national committees. Established to review, assess and make decisions on notification matters (complaints) and applications for registration, the national committees are the:

- Immediate Action Committee
- Notification Committee Assessment

¹ The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

- Notification and Compliance Committee
- Registration and Compliance Committee.

The outcome of the national committee selection process will be announced in May. The Board looks forward to welcoming the successful applicants to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme as they will make a valuable contribution to the work of the Board and to the dental profession.

Dental Practitioner Support service

Support for dental practitioners who need someone to talk to is just a quick phone call or click away.

Dental Practitioner Support is a national 24/7 health and wellbeing support service for all dental practitioners. Anyone using it does not have to give their name and can seek support anonymously.

The service offers health and wellbeing support to all dental practitioners, including dentists, dental prosthetists, oral health therapists, dental hygienists and dental therapists. It is also available to dental students, educators, employers, Australian Dental Council exam candidates and concerned family members and friends.

While funded by the Board, the service is run independently by [Turning Point](#), a leading addiction treatment, research and education organisation based in Victoria. This means practitioners can have complete confidence in reaching out for confidential support.

Access Dental Practitioner Support:

- 1800 377 700
- dpsupport.org.au

We ask all our stakeholders to continue to promote the service widely.

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. More information on the Board's work is also available in the Board's regular newsletter. Read the latest edition, [March 2021](#).

For more information about or help with regulatory issues, please send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact Ahpra on 1300 419 495.

Dr Murray Thomas

Chair, Dental Board of Australia

April 2021