

Communiqué

February to June 2022 meetings of the Dental Board of Australia

The Dental Board of Australia (the Board) held its 137th to 141st meetings on 25 February, 25 March, 29 April, 27 May and 24 June 2022. This communiqué highlights some of the key discussions.

New resources published - infection prevention and control

New resources on infection prevention and control replaced the *Guidelines on infection control* on 1 July 2022. The requirement to practise safely does not change. The Board published the [resources on its website](#) and has also refreshed its [Tips for dental patients webpage](#).

Review of the implementation of Scope of Practice registration standard

The Board completed its review of the implementation of its revised [Scope of Practice registration standard](#). The Board considered feedback from practitioners and stakeholders to understand the effect of the changes and if our promotion of the changes was effective. The results of the review will be communicated to Health Ministers and stakeholders in July 2022.

Professional competencies of the newly qualified dental practitioner

Following comprehensive consultation, the Australian Dental Council (ADC) completed its review of the Professional competencies of the newly qualified dental practitioner (the competencies). The revised competencies will come into effect for the ADC's accreditation processes in 2023.

Amendments to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

The Board noted recent developments regarding the Minamata Convention (the convention) on Mercury that relate to dental practitioners. The Board agreed to develop information and guidance about the convention for the profession, likely in the form of a position statement, which will be released later in the year.

Updated Code of conduct for Board and committee members

The Code of conduct for Board and committee members provides an overview of member obligations regarding the role and public duties, participation, working with others and ethical standards. The updated Code now aligns with recent important policies and has a resolution process to manage concerns about behaviour or conduct of members.

Regulatory workplan 2022 – 2023

The Board updated and amended its risk assurance plan of the management profession specific risks.

Risk assurance plan

The Board updated and amended its risk assurance plan for the management of profession-specific risks.

Budget FY 2022 – 2023

The Board approved its budget for the financial year 2022 – 2023. It is a balanced budget with a small forecast surplus.

Registration fees FY 2022 - 2023

The Board approved the national fee for registration for the financial year 2022 - 2023. The registration fees will not increase and remain unchanged from the financial year 2021 - 2022.

Statutory appointments and re-appointments

The Board made appointments and re-appointments to its List of approved persons for hearing panels and its Equivalence Assessment Panel. The Board appointed Dr Steven Parker as chair and Associate Professor Kenneth Harrison as deputy chair for the Board's Conscious Sedation Advisory Panel.

NRAS Transformation program

The purpose of the NRAS Transformation program is to deliver business capabilities enabled by technology for an improved experience for staff, National Boards, and stakeholders, with better management of regulatory risk and data. The Board, in conjunction with other National Boards, make essential contributions to the program by funding, consultation and supporting its implementation.

Dental Practitioner Support service

Dental Practitioner Support is a national 24/7 health and wellbeing support service for all dental practitioners, dental students, educators, employers, Australian Dental Council exam candidates and concerned family members and friends. Anyone using it can seek support anonymously.

The service is run independently by [Turning Point](#). Anyone accessing the service 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. Information is also available on the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency website at www.ahpra.gov.au.

You can also read about the Board's work in the Board's regular newsletter. Read the latest edition, [March 2022, on our website](#).

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

July 2022