



NEW SOUTH WALES
DENTAL TECHNICIANS REGISTRATION BOARD
NEWSLETTER
ISSUE AUGUST 2004

THE BOARD

Charter

The Board is established under the provisions of the Dental Technicians Registration Act 1975 to exercise the powers, authorities, duties and functions imposed on it by the Act.

Aims and Objectives

The Board's aims and objectives are as follows.

- To maintain a register of qualified dental technicians and an index of qualified dental prosthetists entitled to practice in New South Wales.
- To arrange examinations and determine the standards to be achieved in those examinations for eligibility to practise as dental technicians or dental prosthetists.
- To promote the establishment of courses of training for persons wishing to become dental technicians or dental prosthetists in New South Wales.
- To inquire into the competence of registered dental technicians and dental prosthetists to practise, and suspend or cancel registration or practising certificates, where appropriate.

ACCESS

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Membership

Membership of the Board is prescribed under section 6 of the Act and comprises nine members, as follows.

- An officer of the Department of Health nominated by the Minister for Health:
Michael von Kolpakow
(Chairperson)
- A dentist nominated by the Dental Board of NSW:
Sybille Lechner
- A dentist nominated by United Dental Hospital:
Alicja Smiech
- A dental technician nominated by the Dental Technicians Association of NSW:
Reginald Scott OAM
- A dental technician nominated by the Australian Commercial Dental Laboratories Association of NSW:
Derek Tracey
- A dental technician nominated by the Minister for Health:
Robert Boshier
- A dental technician nominated by the Minister for Health:
Graham Key
- A barrister-at-law admitted by, or a solicitor of, the Supreme Court, nominated by the Minister for Health:
Michael Miceli
- A dental technician nominated by the Health Services Union:
Kenneth Iles

The Board was appointed on 30 August 2003 for a three-year term.

Staff

- Acting Secretary
Michael Jaques
- Assistant Secretary
Jennifer Caldwell

The members of the Board wish to record their appreciation to the former Secretary, Michael Walsh, for the support and services he provided between October 2001 and August 2003.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Year ended 30 June 2004

Registration

Registered dental technicians	
As at 1 July 2003	692
As at 30 June 2004	711
Registered dental prosthetists	
As at 1 July 2003	409
As at 30 June 2004	412
New registrations	60
Dental Technicians	52
Section 15(1)(a)	5
Section 15(1)(c)	11
Mutual Recognition	36
Dental Prosthetists	8
Section 18B(1)(a)	7
Mutual Recognition	1
Re-registrations	28
Dental Technicians	18
Dental Prosthetists	10
Deletions	53
Dental Technicians	30
Dental Prosthetists	23

During the past twelve months, the Board conducted two examinations at the United Dental Hospital with a total of 28 local, interstate and overseas trained candidates participating. Of the 23 individuals who sat for the full examination, 11 were successful. All five candidates, who were re-examined in one exercise only, were successful.

ANNUAL ROLL FEE

All registered practitioners are required, on or before 31 March each year to pay an annual roll fee, and if a registered practitioner does not pay the fee, on or before 30 June each year, the Board shall direct the person's name to be removed from the Register.

Practising unregistered is a breach of the Act and is a serious offence. It is every registrant's obligation to renew his or her registration by the due date.

Persons removed from the Register must apply to the Board for re-registration. It is therefore important that registered practitioners keep the Board notified of changes of address. Changes may be notified in writing, or by facsimile, e-mail or telephone.

IS HE/SHE REGISTERED?

Have you checked whether the staff members you employ or are about to employ actually hold current registration? The following names were removed from the Register of dental technicians on 1 July 2004:

Abdul-Rahman, Mohammed Sefwan;
Angove, John Guy;
Cantwell, Christopher Lance;
Chalabi, Kassem Mahmoud;
Cividin, Miranda Yvonne;
De Andrade, Humberto Manuel;
Dutton, Jannine Terese;
Field, Adrian Jon;
Freeman, Scott David;
Hanson, Mark Redfern;
Henry, Michael William;
Horder, Glenn David;
Khoshabeh, Feridoun;
Kim, Woo Jin;
Neate, Barry Richard;
Odian, Ardashes;
Polikevics, Lija;
Powter, Archibald Frederic;
Simmonds, David Donald;
Steer, Ronald Norman;
Thomas, Ronald Albert;
Voller, Donald Graham;

The following names were removed from the Index of dental prosthetists on 1 July 2004:

Bruce, Jason Barry;
Burgmann, Cameron Heath;
Eo, Chi Soo;
Franco, Paul;
Frayne, Marcus Timothy;
James, Darryl Francis;
Kammerloher, Werner Sebastian;
Karkoulas, Peter;
Lauretti, Jeffrey;
Mackay, Bruce;
Pattison, Craig Douglas;
Richardson, Ronald Charles;
Robinson, John Charles;
Smith, Rodney
Spaits, Attila;
Ton, Hoan Kim;
Witt, Mervyn Henry.

COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

The Health Care Complaints Act 1993 requires the Board and the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) to advise each other of complaints received and to consult concerning resolution of complaints. A complaint made to the Board is deemed to be made to the HCCC, and vice-versa.

A Complaints Screening Committee has been established to assist in the Board's consideration of complaints. The Board has delegated to the Committee the authority to make decisions relating to complaints.

Complaints received concerning the provision of services by registered practitioners were referred to the Complaints Screening Committee for consideration.

Complaints received concerning alleged breaches of the Dental Technicians Registration Act and Regulation were considered by the Board.

During the year 2003-04, the Board considered 32 complaints related to advertising, treatment, professional conduct, and unregistered practitioners, as follows:

Advertising	3
Warning	3
Unsubstantiated	-
Treatment	16
Direct resolution	2
Conciliation	6
Unsubstantiated	1
Referred to another body	3
Ongoing	4
Professional conduct	7
Unsubstantiated	5
Ongoing	2
Unregistered practitioners	6
Warning	5
Ongoing	1

Disciplinary Inquiry by Board or a Delegate

No disciplinary inquiries were held throughout the year pursuant to Section 20 of the Dental Technicians Registration Act.

FEES

The Board's fee structure is:

	\$	
	DT	DP
Registration	120	240
Re-registration	120	240
Annual Roll Fee	80	160
Inspection of Register	10	
Inspection of Index		10

INFECTION CONTROL

Occupational Health and Safety Guide for Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists

The Board has endorsed the document entitled "Occupational Health and Safety Guide for Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists", published jointly by the Australian Commercial Dental Laboratories Association, the Australian Dental Prosthetists Association and Australian Capital Territory WorkCover [2002 Edition], and despatched it to each registered dental technician and dental prosthetist in New South Wales for their information and future reference.

The Board commends the document as a useful reference.

It should be noted the Dental Technicians Registration Regulation 2003 includes infection control standards for dental prosthetists [Schedule 2] and dental technicians [Schedule 3]. The Act and the Regulation may be accessed via the Board's web-site. The Occupational Health and Safety Guide is not intended to replace or supersede the requirements of the Regulation, and where any conflict may exist between the guide and the Regulation the Regulation would take precedence.

It is the responsibility of each registered dental technician and dental prosthetist to ensure they are aware of the relevant requirements of the Regulation.

AMENDMENT TO THE DENTAL TECHNICIANS REGISTRATION ACT 1975

Section 26 of the Dental Technicians Registration Act was amended to correct an oversight in the original legislation. The amendment provides that a dental technician undertaking training in dental prosthetics may engage in an act that forms part of the practice of dental prosthetics.

There is unlikely to be a complete review of the Act in the near future.

PUBLICATIONS

Publications of the Board, which are available to the public, include the Annual Report of the Board, the Board's application forms and associated information sheets, newsletter and policy and procedures statements.

QUALIFICATIONS

The Board has approved the following courses under section 15(1)(a) of the Act, subject to successful completion by applicants of 3500 hours supervised practice and the Board's examination for registration.

- Diploma of Dental Technology, Sydney Institute of TAFE, Sydney, New South Wales
- Diploma of Dental Health Work (Dental Technology), Southbank Institute of TAFE, Brisbane, Queensland, 2002 onwards
- Diploma of Dental Technology, Torrens Valley TAFE, Adelaide, South Australia, 2002 onwards
- Diploma of Dental Health Work (Dental Technology), RMIT University, Melbourne, Victoria, 2002 onwards
- Diploma of Dental Technology, Central TAFE, Perth, Western Australia, 2002 onwards

Employers are reminded that a student in training must make an application for registration within two years after completion of an approved course. Otherwise, the Board will consider that the applicant is no longer a student in training and is therefore unable to perform technical work.

Students completing the new national training package approved Diploma in Dental Technology no 3051, will have fulfilled the Board's requirements regarding the Board examination. All others will still be required to pass the Board's three-day examination.

RECOGNITION OF ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

The Board has determined that a dental technician or dental prosthetist may apply for approval for the use of symbols and letters to describe qualifications in connection with their practice as a dental technician or dental prosthetist, provided the qualifications relate to the practice of dental technology or to the practice of dental prosthetics.

TAFE qualifications descriptions

Holders of the following NSW TAFE qualifications may use the appropriate descriptions after their name in connection with their practice:

- Associate Diploma in Dental Technology
AssDipDT (Syd)
- Diploma in Dental Technology
DipDT (Syd)
- Advanced Diploma in Dental Prosthetics
AdvDipDP(Syd)

Possession of the above qualifications does not entitle a person to practise as a dental technician or dental prosthetist until the registration requirements have been met and registration granted by the Board. Applicants are required to provide a photocopy of their qualification, certified by a Justice of the Peace, solicitor or notary public as being a true copy of the original.

USE OF "SPECIALIST" TITLES NOT PERMITTED

Registrants are reminded they are not permitted to use the descriptions "*Denture Specialist*", "*Master Technician*" or "*Specialising In*" in connection with their practice.

RANDOM INSPECTIONS BY THE INSPECTOR

An inspector appointed by the Board undertook random inspections. Assessments were made in respect of practitioners and their compliance with the provisions of the Dental Technicians Registration Act.

These random inspections have now become a regular part of the Board's Compliance Strategy.

Members of the Board do not know in advance where the inspector will visit, making the process truly unbiased.

ANNUAL REPORT

Copies of the Board's Annual Report will be available from the Board's office and on the web-site.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

No overseas travel was undertaken on the Board's behalf.

TAKING OF IMPRESSIONS FOR IMPLANTS

The Board has endorsed the following policy with respect to the taking of impressions for implants.

"A dental prosthetist with appropriate training and/or experience may be involved in the planning and construction of implant retained over-dentures in co-operation with a dentist and may deal directly with the public to take impressions and construct such dentures, once healing of implant/abutment sites is complete.

He/she may not:

- deal directly with the public while implant/abutment sites are healing; or
- place, remove or replace implant or abutment components; or
- deal directly with the public for any aspect of any other dental implant retained prosthesis; or
- deal directly with the public where precision attachments, attached to a natural tooth/tooth root, form part of the prosthetic structure or where the prosthesis is part of an obturator; or
- deal directly with the public where the prosthetist has not completed an appropriate course of training concerning the implant supported prosthesis to be constructed."

MOUTHGUARDS

Dental Technicians are reminded that it is an offence under the Dental Technicians Registration Act, to attend upon persons for the purpose of taking impressions and fitting mouthguards.

ANTI-SNORING DEVICES

The Board has agreed that, in keeping with the position in Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania, anti-snoring device work should not be a part of the practice of dental prosthetics. The Board has also agreed that dental technicians are able to make up such devices on the prescription of a dentist.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1989

There were no requests for reports under the Freedom of Information Act.

COUNCIL OF REGULATING AUTHORITIES FOR DENTAL TECHNICIANS AND DENTAL PROSTHETISTS (CORA 2004).

The 2004 Council of Regulating Authorities (CORA) meeting for Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists was held in Brisbane in March 2004. The conference was attended by all State Registration Boards, educational authorities and professional associations. Mr. R Boshier, Mr R Scott and Mr. K Iles represented the Board at the conference. Items discussed included:-

- Submission of an Annual Report to State and Territory Health Ministers.
- Presentations given by representatives of Health Training Australia on national dental technicians and dental prosthetists competency standards.
- Amendments to the constitution to ensure the effective administration of CORA's activities.
- The incorporation of the dental technicians registration examination into the new national health training package Diploma of Dental Technology. The graduates of this diploma will only need to log 3500 hours of paid work to apply for registration
- CORA is investigating the option of conducting a central examination for all overseas applicants applying to be registered as dental technicians and dental prosthetists in Australia and New Zealand. The registering authorities will need to agree to accept the decision of the CORA examiners on the results of these examinations, in order to register the successful applicants.

All delegates left the conference satisfied with the outcomes and direction for the next 12 months. The forum is unique in Australia, bringing together virtually all sections of the industry including education, which allows an Australia wide sharing of ideas and challenges.

NSW GOVERNMENT ACTION PLAN FOR WOMEN

The principle of equality of access and rights of participation are the cornerstones of the NSW Government's philosophy in relation to women.

of the position of women in all aspects of society. The focus is on women with the least access to social and economic resources.

The key objectives are to eradicate violence against women, to improve the health and quality of life of women and to provide the responsive environment for women to participate fully in the economic social and educational life of our society. The Government is committed to ensuring that membership of Boards reflects the broader community and that in filling current vacancies consideration is given, inter-alia, to the nomination of female representatives. It is the Government's intention to progressively increase the number of women on Boards to 50% of Board representation. It is recognised that not all nominations to Boards are made by the Minister. Nominating bodies are advised of the Government's policy in relation to female representation when vacancies occur or when nominations for a new Board are requested.

Of the 9 members, the Board currently has 2 female members.

Whilst the Board is not responsible for the promotion of access to the profession for women, it is in a position to indicate the number of women who have satisfied registration requirements and who currently hold an authority to practise. At 30 June, the number of female registered Dental Technicians was 172 (24.25% of total registrants). The number of female Dental Prosthetists was 48 (11.65% of total registrants). The figures reflect a marginal but continuing growth in the ratio of female to male practitioners.

ETHNIC AFFAIRS PRIORITIES STATEMENT

This Board is one of nine administered by the Health Professionals Registration Boards (HPRB) on behalf of the Health Administration Corporation. The Board in conjunction with the HPRB undertakes a number of initiatives to support our culturally diverse population under the key areas of social justice, economic and cultural opportunities.

These initiatives include to:

- (i) promote the recognition and registration of overseas trained health professionals
- (ii) assist overseas trained applicants to register
- (iii) increase the number and range of bilingual staff employed by HPRB

- (iv) ensure ethnic media is used in any information languages sponsored by the Board
- (v) ensure the Board receives advice on matters relating to people of culturally diverse backgrounds
- (vi) promote use of culturally diverse workforce
- (vii) ensure the Board is aware of the Government's commitment to implementing the principles of multiculturalism as set out in section 3 of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000.

OVERSEAS TRAINING - RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS

The Board conducts practical examinations for applicants for registration as a dental technician or dental prosthetist in New South Wales who have trained interstate or overseas. The Board requires overseas trained applicants who studied in a language other than English, to provide evidence of having achieved a minimum band score of 6 at the academic level in each of the four modules of an IELTS (International English Language Testing System) test. Following successful completion of the examination and subject to statutory good character requirements registration is granted.

This method of registration could be replaced by the CORA proposal to have a national examination.

Interpreter and Translation Services

Professional interpreters and translation services are made available as required. HPRB staff are able to provide assistance in the following languages: Arabic, German, Greek, Italian, Mandarin, Philippino (Tagalog), Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Taiwanese, Turkish.

Interpreters for the hearing impaired have also been made available.

Key Strategies

The EAPS statement developed in consultation with the Community Relations Commission, includes initiatives relating to the Board under the key result areas of social justice, community harmony, economic and cultural opportunities. Within the legislative framework, pathways for the registration of overseas trained professionals were applied.