



NEW SOUTH WALES
DENTAL TECHNICIANS REGISTRATION BOARD
NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2005

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:
Meredith Kay (Chairperson)
- A dentist nominated by the Dental Board of NSW:
Sybille Lechner
- A dentist nominated by Sydney 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 dental technician nominated by the Health Services Union:
Kenneth Iles
- A barrister-at-law admitted by, or a solicitor of, the Supreme Court, nominated by the Minister for Health:
Michael Miceli

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

STAFF

- Secretary
Michael Jaques
- Assistant Secretary
Jennifer Caldwell
Christine Gursen (post July 2005)

CHAIRPERSON

The Board welcomed the appointment of Ms Meredith Kay as its new Chairperson in April 2005. Ms Kay is the Director, Oral Health Services, for the Northern Sydney – Central Coast Area Health Service

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 2005:

Alvarez, Robert Mark
Bambara, Toru
Beadell, Craig Anthony
Blake, Andrew Jason
Bottcher, Dietmar Richard
Bryce, Andrea Margaret
Byrnes, Robert Andrew
Connor, Ashleigh Theresa
Gorman, Mark David
Greenrod, Marie Rose
Gujas, Ana
Horvath, Beatrice
Howarth, Chad
Hunke, Helga
Jackson, Michael Kenneth
Khodaverdi, Hamlet
Kolev, Svetlana
Mann, Jill
McCull, Graham Albert
Parr, Amanda Gaye
Rodda, Peter Gerald
Schuhmacher, Richard
Sever-Ivanic, Suzana
Yates, Rodney David

The following names were removed from the Index of dental prosthetists on 1 July 2005:

Blake, John Kevin
Dyson, Kenneth Frank
Guterres, Roberto Antonio
Olguin, Hilda Edith
Scott, Ralph William
Selby, Stephen
Spence, Geoffrey
Stephens, William Lonsdale
Tozer, Diane Margaret
Veroli, Peter John
Walsh, Francis Norman

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

ANNUAL ROLL FEE

All registered practitioners are required, on or before 31 March each year, to pay an annual roll fee. If a registered practitioner does not pay the fee on or before 30 June each year, the Act directs the Board to remove the person's name 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.

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 has 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 will take precedence.

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

BOARD POLICIES

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 overdentures 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:

- o deal directly with the public while implant/abutment sites are healing; or
- o place, remove or replace implant or abutment components; or
- o deal directly with the public for any aspect of any other dental implant retained prosthesis; or
- o 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
- o 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

Consistent with the position adopted at the CORA Conference in June 2005, the Board considers that taking impressions for anti snoring devices is outside the scope of practice of dental prosthetists. These devices carry a high level of risk and many possible adverse effects, especially to the occlusion. Dental Technicians may fabricate such appliances on the order of a dentist, but should reject a prescription from a dental prosthetist.

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.

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.

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

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

In July 2004, Messrs Boshier, Key and Scott attended a meeting in Dunedin New Zealand to advance protocols to standardise the assessment of overseas trained applicants for registration.

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.

NATIONAL DENTAL LABOUR FORCE DATA COLLECTION

The Dental Statistics and Research Unit was formed in 1988 to establish and maintain data sets on the dental labour force. The Board encourages dental prosthetists to participate in the Unit's data collection exercises, as the information gained through that source provides statistical and demographic detail that is vital to forward planning

TAFE QUALIFICATIONS

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.

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.

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

INSPECTIONS OF DENTAL LABORATORIES

Inspectors appointed by the Board undertake random inspections of dental laboratories to assess the compliance of practitioners with the provisions of the Dental Technicians Registration Act.

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

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

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Year ended 30 June 2005

REGISTRATION

Registered dental technicians		
As at 1 July 2004	711	
As at 30 June 2005	723	
Registered dental prosthetists		
As at 1 July 2004	412	
As at 30 June 2005	419	
New registrations		
Dental Technicians	45	
Section 15(1)(a)	7	
Section 15(1)(c)	5	
Mutual Recognition	33	
Dental Prosthetists	15	
Section 18B(1)(a)	14	
Mutual Recognition	1	
Re-registrations		
Dental Technicians	14	
Dental Prosthetists	10	
Deletions	43	
Dental Technicians	28	
Dental Prosthetists	15	

During the past twelve months, the Board conducted two examinations at the Sydney Dental Hospital with a total of 13 local, interstate and overseas trained candidates participating. Of the 12 individuals who sat for the full examination, 7 were successful. One candidate obtained a post in the partial exercise.

AMENDMENT TO THE DENTAL TECHNICIANS REGISTRATION ACT 1975

During the year, penalties were increased from \$550 to \$5,500 for various offences under the Act.

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

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 2004-05, the Board considered 24 complaints relating to advertising, treatment, professional conduct, and unregistered practitioners, as follows:

Advertising	1
Warning	1
Unsubstantiated	-
Treatment	18
Direct resolution	1
Assisted resolution	6
Conciliation	5
Unsubstantiated	1
Referred to another body	1
Ongoing	4
Professional conduct	4
Unsubstantiated	1
Ongoing	3
Unregistered practitioners	1
Warning	-
Unsubstantiated	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.

Board Award to TAFE Student

During a dinner hosted by the Australian Commercial Dental Laboratories Association in May 2005, the Board awarded a Gunz Micromotor to Ms Si Mei Lin for academic excellence in the 2004 Diploma of Dental Technology.

COUNCIL OF REGULATING AUTHORITIES FOR DENTAL TECHNICIANS AND DENTAL PROSTHETISTS (CORA 2005).

The 2005 Council of Regulating Authorities (CORA) meeting for Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists was held in Hobart in June 2005. The conference was attended by all State Registration Boards, educational authorities and professional associations. The Secretary plus Messrs Boshier, Scott and Iles represented the Board at the conference. Items discussed included:-

- Registration of dental technicians in Western Australia.
- Inclusion of New Zealand into CORA
- Presentations given by representatives of Health Training Australia on national dental technicians and dental prosthetists competency standards.
- Amendments to the constitution to enhance the effective administration of CORA's activities.
- Agreement that dental prosthetists do not take impressions for anti-snoring devices.
- Promotion of the concept of conducting a uniform trans-Tasman examination for all overseas applicants applying to be registered as dental technicians and dental prosthetists in Australia and New Zealand.

The delegates left the conference confident that the newly elected Executive would pursue the Council's objectives over the next twelve 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.

ANNUAL REPORT

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1989

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

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. Central to the core business of all government agencies is the promotion 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 3 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. During August 2005, the number of female registered Dental Technicians was 173 (24.43% of total registrants). The number of female Dental Prosthetists was 54 (13.07% 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.