

NSW DENTAL TECHNICIANS REGISTRATION BOARD

Newsletter

Issue No.3

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Continuing Education Courses

The Board supports a system of postgraduate study for practising dental prosthetists and has commenced discussions with the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Sydney on the components of the proposed course. The Continuing Education Committee of the University has recently opened up to other dental personnel postgraduate programs which were previously available only to registered dentists. Dental prosthetists are now able to take advantage of the courses offered by the faculty which lead to a Certificate in Continuing Education after completion of a required number of course units. The Board will continue to keep up to date with information on these courses and will advise registrants of the courses proposed when that information becomes available.

Proposed Diploma in Dental Technology Course

The New South Wales Department of Training and Education Co-Ordination (DEC) has

Harold Clive Champion

approved TAFE to prepare a new accredited Diploma course in Dental Technology to be implemented in 1998. The course is being updated from an Associate Diploma to a Diploma to fit into the National Training Reform Agenda. Part of the object of this reform process is to provide uniformity of qualifications on a national basis. A Project Steering Committee was established to monitor the project and provide expert advice to TAFE.

The Committee comprised representatives from educational institutions, the Board, and associations.

The Board has considered a copy of the report of the Project Steering Committee on the course document for the Diploma in Dental Technology. The Board endorses the content of the course. However the Board has not approved the course for the purposes of registration.

Competencies

The Dental Health Work Competencies Project is a national project undertaken by Community Services and Health Training Australia which will result in national, industry-endorsed (United Dental Hospital Nominee)

competency standards for workers in the dental health care sector. The national ITAB has established a project management committee comprised of employers, unions, the state and territory ITABS, and other dental associations, to plan and monitor the progress of the project, and ensure that the dental health care sector is appropriately consulted at all stages. The Project has also consulted with interested persons by conducting industry forums, workplace visits, interviews and encouraging written submissions. The third draft of the competency standards was recently reviewed by occupational groups. Once endorsed, national competency standards will be used as the basis of all accredited training provided in the vocational education and training sector.

Board Composition

A new Board was appointed on 1 August 1997 for a term of three years and the members are as follows:

Kathleen Therese Meleady
(Ministerial Nominee)
Sybille Katherine Lechner
(Dental Board Nominee)

Reginald Francis Scott OAM
(Dental Technicians Association)

Nominee)

Lisa Ann Culkin
(Australian Commercial Dental
Laboratories Association Nominee)

Elizabeth Jane Irene Bick
(Ministerial Nominee)

Robert Ashley Boshier
(Ministerial Nominee)

Elizabeth Ann Menadue
(Ministerial Nominee)

Kenneth Alfred Iles
(Public Service Association
Nominee)

Amendments to the Dental Technicians Registration Act 1975

The Act was amended on 12
December 1997 to provide for
dental prosthetists to make and fit
mouthguards.

A proposal has been submitted to
the Minister for Health
recommending that a number of
amendments be made to the Act
with respect to the composition of
the Board; increasing the
effectiveness of the disciplinary
provisions; and, empowering the
Board to fund educational and
research projects.

Conference of Regulating Authorities for Dental Technicians and Dental

Prosthetists.

The NSW Dental Technicians
Registration Board hosted the 1997
Conference of Regulating
Authorities for Dental Technicians
and Dental Prosthetists on 17-18
April 1997. The Board's Secretary
planned the Conference and
provided support services.

The Conference was attended by
State Registration Boards, and
Educational authorities, and
professional associations. There
were eleven delegates and fifteen
observers at the Conference. The
Board was represented at the
Conference by Mr R Scott, Mr J
Dieters, Mr P Moriarty and Mr L
Mascord. Mr Scott was elected
Chairperson of the Conference.

Items for discussion included:-

- . Mutual recognition
- . Infection control in dental
laboratories
- . Competency standards
- . Standardisation of
training/registration
requirements
- . Development of a glossary
of dental technology terms
- . Nomenclature
- . Continuing education
- . Terms of Reference

Complaints

There were 32 complaints during
1996 - 1997 concerning issues
related to:

- . Treatment
- . Advertising

- . Practice by unregistered
persons
- . Convictions
- . Infection control
- . Employment of an
unregistered person

Is He/She Registered?

Have you checked whether the staff
member you have just employed or
are about to employ actually holds
current registration? Each year the
Board removes names from the
register and the Board has noted
that some of these dental
technicians/dental prosthetists have
continued to practise whilst
unregistered. Practising
unregistered is a breach of the Act
and is a serious offence. It is every
registrants obligation to renew his or
her registration by the due date.
Where there has been a change of
address, the registrant must advise
the Board in writing or by
telephoning the Board's office.

Statistics

**Dental Technicians as at
1 December 1997 - 601**

**Registered Dental
Prosthetists as at
1 December 1997—
388**

**Copies of the NSW Dental
Technicians Registration Act
1975, No.40 and Regulation can
be obtained from the Government
Information Centre, Goodsell
Building, Hunter Street, Sydney
(Tel: 9743 7200)**