



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 or approve 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:
Ms Meredith Kay (Chairperson)
- A dentist nominated by the Dental Board of NSW:
A/Prof Sybille Lechner
- A dentist nominated by Sydney Dental Hospital:
Dr Alicja Smiech
- A dental technician nominated by the Dental Technicians Association of NSW:
Mr Reginald Scott OAM
- A dental technician nominated by the Australian Commercial Dental Laboratories Association of NSW:
Mr Derek Tracey
- A dental technician nominated by the Minister for Health:
Mr Robert Boshier
- A dental technician nominated by the Minister for Health:
Mr Graham Key
- A dental technician nominated by the Health Services Union:
Ms Ewa Bury
- A barrister-at-law admitted by, or a solicitor of, the Supreme Court, nominated by the Minister for Health:
Mr Michael Miceli

The Board was appointed on 6th September 2006 for a three-year term.

STAFF

Secretary: Michael Jaques

Asst Secretary: Christine Gursen

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 2007:

Abou-Hamdan, Labib
Chou, Naomi
Chu Pin Chan, Kenny
Chung, Do Hee
Gambrell, Harry
Godfrey, Kathryn
Haque, Mohammed
Harrison, Mark
Isabaeva, Barshyn
Janud, Mahboob
Kapsalis, Melina
Kulbert, Zsolt
Labort, Jules
Larsen, Ronald
Neff, Laurence
Panizza, Anthony
Sabbaghi-Seysan, Jamshid
Stockins, Jennifer
Van Zyl, Theodoros
Weller, Clinton
Yu, Kyung

The following names were removed from the Index of dental prosthetists on 1 July 2007:

Alvarez, Mark
Della Croce, Sandro
Fletcher, Jamie
Frayne, Marcus
Humphry, Kevin
Joslin, Dennis
Lamberti, Bruno
Richardson, Maurice
Rowland, Stanley
Watts, Wendy

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 for re-registration prior to resuming practice.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE FOR DENTAL PROSTHETISTS

The Health Care Liability Amendment Regulation 2001 requires **dental prosthetists** to be covered by professional indemnity insurance by 26 October 2007, unless they can demonstrate they are exempt in accordance with the regulations. The Health Care Liability Act 2001 prescribes that the Board:

- a) must not register a person unless it is satisfied that he or she will be covered by professional indemnity insurance (or has been granted an exemption under the Regulations) while practising in NSW and
- b) may cancel or suspend the registration of a dental prosthetist if it is satisfied that the individual is not covered for (nor exempt from) professional indemnity insurance while practising.

Further information is available on the Board's website.

INFECTION CONTROL

Occupational Health and Safety Guide for Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists

The Board endorses 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 provides a copy to each newly registered dental technician and dental prosthetist in New South Wales for their information and future reference.

It should be noted that 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 adhere to the relevant infection control requirements in the Regulation.

BOARD POLICIES

TOOTH WHITENING AND BLEACHING

Bleaching or whitening involves the application of a chemical to alter tooth enamel.

The Board has adopted the Crown Solicitor's advice that the process of tooth whitening or bleaching is an operation within the meaning of Section 1OAF(4) of the Public Health Act 1991. As such, only dentists, medical practitioners or registered dental students undertaking clinical studies may carry out this procedure.

IMMEDIATE DENTURES

The Board considers that performing any clinical procedure whatsoever for immediate dentures by dental prosthetists is beyond the definition of "dental prosthetics" even if a dentist prescribes the procedure(s) to be done.

MOUTHGUARDS

It is an offence under the Dental Technicians Registration Act, for **Dental Technicians** to deal with the public for the purpose of taking impressions and fitting mouthguards.

TAKING OF IMPRESSIONS FOR IMPLANTS

Dental prosthetists 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.

DENTAL APPLIANCE THERAPY FOR THE TREATMENT OF SLEEP DISORDERS

Dental appliances for the treatment of sleep disorders may only be provided and fitted by dentists following assessment by a medical practitioner who specialises in sleep disorders (ideally a respiratory physician). Taking impressions for anti snoring devices is outside the scope of practice of dental prosthetists; thus **dental prosthetists must not undertake any clinical procedures involved in the provision or adjustment of these oral appliances.**

Dental Technicians may fabricate such appliances on the order of a dentist, but should reject a prescription from a dental prosthetist.

WORK EXPERIENCE POLICIES

1. A school student undertaking one week's work experience:
>>>>The laboratory manager should ensure that the student provides an introductory letter from the school
2. A prospective candidate for the Diploma of Dental Technology:
>>>>Board approval is not required as the assessment of such an individual is usually made within two or three days, and the individual is not permitted to work on commercial models
3. A first year TAFE student, prior to the commencement of term 1:
>>>>The laboratory manager should ensure that the student provides a letter of acceptance into the course from TAFE and is to remunerate the student in accordance with or above the award rate
4. An overseas trained dental technician wishing to hone their skills prior to undertaking the Board's examination for registration:
>>>>The laboratory manager should obtain an approval letter from the Board and ensure that the individual does not work on commercial models
5. A person employed in a dental laboratory as support staff or as an assistant to a technician:
>>>>Such persons must not undertake technical work* as defined under section 5 of the Act.
6. A student who has completed the approved Diploma of Dental Technology course, and who is accumulating their 3,500 supervised hours of paid employment in a dental laboratory:
>>>>Such persons must apply for registration within two years of

completing the Diploma, otherwise the Board will deem the person to no longer be a student in training and he/she will be unable to continue to undertake technical work.

* **Technical work** is defined at Section 5 of the Dental Technicians Registration Act as: the mechanical construction or the renewal or repair of artificial dentures or restorative dental appliances.

USE OF "SPECIALIST" TITLES

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*.

- o Diploma of Dental Technology, Sydney Institute of TAFE, Sydney, New South Wales
- o Diploma of Dental Technology, Southbank Institute of TAFE, Brisbane, Queensland, 2006 onwards
- o Bachelor of Oral Health in Dental Technology, Griffith University, Queensland, 2006 onwards
- o Diploma of Dental Technology, Torrens Valley TAFE, Adelaide, South Australia, 2006 onwards
- o Diploma of Dental Technology, RMIT University, Melbourne, Victoria, 2006 onwards
- o Bachelor of Dental Technology, University of Otago, New Zealand, 2006 onwards

Employers are reminded that a student in training must make an application for registration within two years of 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.

*Graduates of all other NSW and interstate courses are required to pass the Board's three-day examination.

PUBLICATIONS

Publications available to the public, include Annual Reports, the Board's application forms and associated information sheets, newsletters and policy and procedure statements.

NATIONAL DENTAL LABOUR FORCE DATA COLLECTION

The Dental Statistics and Research Unit (DSRU) 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. The DSRU last conducted a national workforce survey of dental prosthetists in 2006.

TAFE QUALIFICATIONS

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

- o Associate Diploma in Dental Technology
AssDipDT (Syd)
- o Diploma in Dental Technology
DipDT (Syd)
- o 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 and Regulation.

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 2007

REGISTRATION

Registered dental technicians	
As at 1 July 2006	756
As at 30 June 2007	784
Registered dental prosthetists	
As at 1 July 2006	439
As at 30 June 2007	450
New registrations	
Dental Technicians	62
Section 15(1)(a)	32
Section 15(1)(c)	4
Mutual Recognition	26
Dental Prosthetists	20
Section 18B(1)(a)	16
Mutual Recognition	4
Re-registrations	22
Dental Technicians	17
Dental Prosthetists	5
Deletions	65
Dental Technicians	51
Dental Prosthetists	14

During the past twelve months, the Board conducted two examinations at Sydney Dental Hospital with a total of five candidates participating. Of the five individuals who sat for the full examination, four were successful.

REVIEW OF THE ACT

On 19 May 2006, the former Minister for Health announced that the Dental Technicians Registration Act 1975 will be opened for review. The Board had been pressing for such a review for a number of years and acknowledges that a review would trigger significant changes to the legislation. The Board lodged a submission to the Department of Health and awaits the next phase of the review. The Board is disappointed to report that there have been no developments over the past twelve months, possibly due to the impending national registration scheme.

COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

The Health Care Complaints Act 1993 requires the Board and the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) to advise each other about complaints received and to consult concerning their resolution. 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 2006-07, the Board considered 11 new complaints, in addition to 4 matters that had been carried over from the previous period. The nature of the complaints and outcome of investigations were as follows:

Nature:

Dissatisfaction with Dental Appliance	9
Commercial Dispute	1
Attitudinal / service problems	2
Misrepresentation as a dentist	1
Excessive services	1
Unsatisfactory Professional Conduct	1

Outcome:

Assisted Resolution	6
Referral to another body	3
Unsubstantiated	5
Unresolved but closed	1

COUNCIL OF REGULATING AUTHORITIES FOR DENTAL TECHNICIANS AND DENTAL PROSTHETISTS (CORA 2007).

The 2007 Council of Regulating Authorities (CORA) meeting for Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists will be held in the ACT in September. It is anticipated that national registration and CORA's plans to run a Trans-Tasman examination for all overseas trained technicians will dominate discussions.

THE USE OF X-RAYS

The Board encourages dental prosthetists to attend courses on interpreting radiographs. X-Rays cannot be used for diagnostic purposes, but having the skills and knowledge to interpret radiographic images is a useful tool in planning treatment.

NATIONAL REGISTRATION

In July 2006, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to establish by July 2008, a single national registration scheme for health professionals who are registered in each state and a single national accreditation scheme for health education and training.

The professions included in the scheme are: medicine, pharmacy, nursing, psychology, physiotherapy, chiropractic, osteopathy, optometry and dental (including dental prosthetists but excluding dental technicians). A single national board for each of the nine professions will develop registration and accreditation standards.

Responsibility for approving those standards will rest with state and federal Health Ministers. Committees will replace the current Boards in each state and will oversee registration and disciplinary issues in the main.

The future status of dental technicians in NSW remains unclear, particularly having regard to the planned review of the Dental Technicians Registration Act.

AWARD OF OAM

The Board congratulates Mr Martin Dunn, dental prosthetist and former examiner for the Board's examination for registration, on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2007 Australia Day Honours List "for service to the profession of dental prosthetics, particularly as a contributor in the area of skills development".

INTERNATIONAL AWARD

The Board congratulates Mr Graham Key, Board Member & Head Teacher, Dental Studies, TAFE NSW, on being bestowed the highest award of the International Federation of Denturists (the Sterkenburger) at a ceremony in England in May 2007. Mr Key is only the second Australian to be honoured in this manner and the award recognises his outstanding contribution to the education of dental prosthetists at both a national and international level.

ANNUAL REPORT

Copies of the Board's Annual Report are available from the Board's office or may be downloaded from the web-site.

OVERSEAS TRAINING - RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS

Pending the introduction of a CORA sponsored examination, the Board has continued to conduct practical examinations for applicants for registration as a dental technician 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.

ETHNIC AFFAIRS PRIORITIES STATEMENT

The Board 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