

## CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### 1 Introduction

1.1 The Australian Dental Association [ADA] and its Branches have a long history of encouraging and providing continuing professional development [CPD] to their members.

#### 1.2 **Definition**

1.2.1 BOARD is a Federal, State or Territory dental registration board.

1.2.2 CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT is on-going learning activity undertaken by professionals after initial qualification and registration for practice. Such activities are usually informal in nature but may include formal post-graduate studies and educational requirements for peripheral areas of practice.

### 2 Principles

2.1 Dentists have an ethical obligation to engage in [CPD] throughout their practising careers so that the public will be provided with sustained quality patient care.

2.2 The Australian Dental Association Inc. [ADA], the Dental Schools, specialist associations and other dental groups have an important role in fostering and providing CPD. This includes developing and encouraging CPD activities which allow all dentists financial and/or geographical access. All CPD activities should be designed to fulfil dentists' professional and regulatory requirements.

2.3 It is the role of the ADA to recognise CPD through its Federal body and Branch Professional Development Programmes. These Programmes aim to:

a] Encourage dentists to participate regularly in CPD activities,

b] Ensure excellence by means of an evaluation process, and

c] Recognise an appropriate level of participation by the award of a Certificate of Professional Development.

### 3 Policy

3.1 The ADA does not support the mandating through Dental Registration Acts of arbitrary levels of CPD for the dental profession generally. There is no evidence indicating that better health and safety outcomes arise from mandatory CPD as opposed to voluntary programmes of fostering, accreditation and recognition. The ADA encourages further research into the relationship between CPD and quality of patient care.

3.2 Boards should recognise and support the ADA's CPD programmes. The Boards should allow dentists who comply with the ADA's minimum participation levels to advertise that their compliance is recognised by the Boards.

- 3.3 It is a role of Boards to require dentists whose professional conduct indicates substandard skill or knowledge to undertake appropriate remedial CPD.

**Policy Statement 3.1**

Adopted by ADA Federal Council, April 18/19, 2002.  
Amended by ADA Federal Council, April 7/8, 2005.  
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