

CLINICAL PRACTICE PLACEMENTS

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Clinical practice placements (Placements) are regarded as an essential element in the education and training of dentists and relevant allied dental personnel.
- 1.2 Placement numbers and demand in Australia have increased due to:
 - increased numbers of dental and allied dental students;
 - the introduction of new curricula;
 - limited clinical facilities at universities; and
 - demand from students for broader clinical experiences.
- 1.3 **Definitions**
 - 1.3.1 BOARD is a Federal, State or Territory dental registration board.
 - 1.3.2 PARTICIPANTS IN CLINICAL PRACTICE PLACEMENTS (PARTICIPANTS) are:
 - dental and allied dental students visiting extramural clinics to observe;
 - dental and allied dental students visiting extramural clinics to treat patients under supervision; and
 - first year dental and allied dental graduates visiting clinics under supervision prior to gaining full registration.
 - 1.3.3 DENTAL CARE PROVIDER is a person registered by a Board to provide dental care.

2 Principles

- 2.1 Placements should enrich participants' education and training.
- 2.2 Placements should provide either observation of and/or participation in a broad range of clinical experiences in both public and private sector dental practice.
- 2.3 Placements should expose participants to a range of clinical experiences in regional, rural and remote areas.
- 2.4 Placement programs should ensure the safety of the public.

3 Policy

- 3.1 Student placement programmes must be part of an Australian Dental Council accredited course prior to implementation.
- 3.2 There must be, for each Placement, a formal agreement which clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of all parties.
- 3.3 Placements must fully comply with Board requirements.
- 3.4 Clinical mentors must be registered as a dental care provider with the appropriate Board at least to the level of the qualification for which the student participant is training.

- 3.5 The clinical mentor must not be under investigation or subject to conditions by the Board.
- 3.6 Participants must be provided with high quality academic support and clinical supervision and a broad range of clinical experience.
- 3.7 Academic institutions and government departments/agencies participating in placement programmes must provide appropriate training, support and offer appropriate financial remuneration for clinical mentors.
- 3.8 Educational outcomes for placements must be clearly defined.
- 3.9 Participants should have the same professional indemnification for the treatment they provide as do dental and allied dental students in other university settings.
- 3.10 Participants and their clinical mentors must have appropriate professional indemnity cover.
- 3.11 Governments should provide adequate funding to ensure that placements may be conducted throughout Australia.
- 3.12 Placements and programmes must be subjected to regular comprehensive evaluations of educational outcomes.

Policy Statement 2.10

Adopted by ADA Federal Council, April 12/13, 2007.

Amended by ADA Federal Council, November 13/14, 2008.

Amended by ADA Federal Council, November 12/13, 2009.

