

Policy Statement 3.10 – Clinical Practice Placements¹

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Clinical practice 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 dentist and allied dental practitioner students,
 - the introduction of new curricula;
 - limited clinical facilities at universities; and
 - demand from students for broader clinical experiences.

Definitions

- 1.3. BOARD is the Dental Board of Australia.
- 1.4. CLINICAL PRACTICE PLACEMENTS (PLACEMENTS) are positions in external clinics which provide clinical teaching for dental and allied dental students.
- 1.5. DENTAL PRACTITIONER is a person registered by the Board to provide dental care.
- 1.6. CLINICAL SUPERVISOR is a person providing professional guidance to Participants.
- 1.7. PARTICIPANTS IN PLACEMENTS (PARTICIPANTS) are:
 - dentist and allied dental students visiting external clinics to observe;
 - dentist and allied dental students visiting external clinics to treat patients under supervision.

2. Principles

- 2.1. Placements should enrich the education and training of Participants.
- 2.2. Placements should provide observation, and/or participation in a range of clinical experience for Participants which is commensurate with their anticipated scope of practice in the following:
 - both public and private sector dental practice;
 - community and hospital settings; and
 - regional and remote areas.
- 2.3. Placements must be evaluated regularly and revised as necessary to ensure they operate within an evidence based framework and in line with optimal practice.
- 2.4. Placements should protect and maintain the safety of the public.

3. Policy

- 3.1. Placements must be part of an Australian Dental Council accredited programme prior to implementation.
- 3.2. There must be, for each Placement, a formal agreement which clearly defines the roles and

¹This Policy Statement is linked to other Policy Statement: 3.6 Higher Education Funding for the Dental Workforce; 3.15 Post Graduate Year One Programmes & 5.9 Dental Accreditation Authority

responsibilities of all parties.

- 3.3. Placements must fully comply with Board requirements.
- 3.4. Clinical Supervisor must be registered as a Dental Practitioner by the Board at least to the level of the qualification for which the student participant is training and have at least two years' experience.
- 3.5. The Clinical Supervisor must not be 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 Placements must provide appropriate training, support and offer appropriate financial remuneration for clinical supervisors.
- 3.8. Governments should provide adequate funding to ensure that Placements may be conducted throughout Australia.
- 3.9. Educational outcomes for Placements must be clearly defined.
- 3.10. Participants should have the same professional indemnification for the treatment they provide as do dental and allied dental students in other university settings.
- 3.11. Placements must be subject to regular comprehensive evaluations of educational outcomes.
- 3.12. Participants and their clinical supervisors must have appropriate professional indemnity cover.

Policy Statement 3.10

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