

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 Under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme from 1 July 2010, mandatory CPD became a requirement for continuing registration.
- 1.3 CPD activities are not accredited. Post-graduate studies and educational requirements for peripheral areas of practice may be counted in the hours completed as part of the CPD registration requirement.
- 1.4 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.

Definitions

- 1.5 **ACCREDITED COURSE** is a formal programme of education accredited by a dental education accrediting authority.
- 1.6 **BOARD** is the Dental Board of Australia.
- 1.7 **CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** is the means by which members of the profession maintain, improve and broaden their knowledge, expertise and competence, and develop the personal and professional qualities required throughout their professional lives.
- 1.8 **DENTAL ACT** is any Federal, State or Territory Act that has a primary purpose to regulate the practice of dentistry.
- 1.9 **DENTAL PRACTITIONER** is a person registered by the Board to provide dental care.
- 1.10 **RANGE OF PRACTICE** is the duties an individual dental practitioner can practice, within their category's scope of practice, for which they are formally educated and trained in programmes accredited by the Australian Dental Council and are currently competent.
- 1.11 **SCOPE OF PRACTICE** is a clearly defined list of prescribed duties within dentistry for each category of dental practitioner which should be delineated by regulation.

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 Given the informal nature of CPD, endorsement of providers and/or programmes is not required.
- 2.3 CPD should be tailored to an individual's needs.
- 2.4 Only accredited courses should lead to registration or define scope of practice.
- 2.5 The ADA, Australian 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 dentists practical, financial and geographic access.
- 2.6 All dental CPD activities should be designed to fulfil dental practitioners' professional and regulatory requirements.

3. Policy

- 3.1 Dentists should be free to choose the CPD that is appropriate for them.
- 3.2 The mandating, through Dental Acts, of arbitrary levels of CPD for the dental profession generally is not supported.

¹ This Policy Statement is linked to other Policy Statement: *5.9 Dental Education Accrediting Authorities*

- 3.3 Further research into the relationship between CPD and the safety and quality of patient care should be completed.
- 3.4 CPD activities should not require providers and/or programmes to be recognised or accredited.
- 3.5 Only Board accredited programmes must lead to registration or define a dental practitioner's range of practice.
- 3.6 The ADA and its Branches, by providing appropriate CPD, should assist their members to comply with any regulatory requirements.
- 3.7 It is a role of the Board to require dental practitioners whose professional conduct indicates substandard skill or knowledge to undertake appropriate remedial CPD.
- 3.8 The management of emergencies and the techniques for resuscitation change from time to time. Dentists should ensure they keep up with these changes. Regular "hands on" training is recommended for dentists and their staff.
- 3.9 The ADA should provide members the following complementary CPD activities;
 - the National Library Service
 - CPD Portal, an on-line video service
 - Dental Files, a CD Service with up to four editions per annum
 - Webinars, usually once a month and available only to regional and remote members, however for special events and if there is the opportunity to do two webinars a month, these additional webinars will be available to all ADA members.

Policy Statement 4.1

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