



5 November 2014

Dr Chris Bourke MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services
c/- Secretariat
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

via email: committees@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Dr Bourke

Inquiry – sourcing and supply of dental appliances and prostheses used by the dental profession in the Australian Capital Territory

Thank you for your letter of 16 October 2014 seeking input to the inquiry by the Standing committee on health, ageing and community and social services (the Committee) into the sourcing and supply of dental appliances and prostheses used by the dental profession in the Australian Capital Territory (the inquiry).

The Dental Board's role as the regulator of the dental profession under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme is to provide for the protection of the public. To support this the Board has established a regulatory framework of registration standards, codes and guidelines. These documents describe the requirements for registration as well as the expected standards of practice of dental practitioners. Dental practitioners are expected to practice in accordance with all the documents in this framework.

The sourcing and supply of dental appliances and prostheses is regulated by entities other than the Dental Board including the Therapeutic Goods Administration. The Board expects dental practitioners to be mindful of any requirements of these entities, however the Board does have some considerations in how dental practitioners use appliances and prostheses in their practice.

Code of conduct

When considering and dental treatment including that using dental appliances and prostheses, the Dental Board expects dental practitioners to be aware of the requirements of the *Code of conduct* (the Code) including:

- the need to obtain informed consent for the care that the dental practitioner will provide to their patients, and
- facilitating the quality use of therapeutic products based on the best available evidence and the patient's needs.

The Code has a specific reference at 3.5(e) for practitioners being mindful of additional informed consent requirements when supplying or prescribing products not approved or not made in Australia.

Advertising

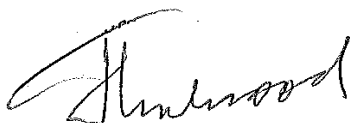
The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory has specific provisions related to the advertising of regulated health services. The Dental Board in conjunction with the other National Boards have developed guidelines

to assist practitioners and advertisers of such services meet the requirements of the National law. The *Guidelines for advertising regulated health services* (the Guidelines) include specific reference to the advertising of therapeutic goods. The Guidelines provide an overview and direction to the role of the Therapeutic Goods Administration in the regulation of advertising of therapeutic goods. Compliance with the Guidelines does not exempt advertisements for regulated health services from the need to comply with the legislation administered by the TGA.

The terms of reference of the Standing Committee include issues that the Dental Board may not be in a position to comment on, however, the Board is interested in ensuring that dental practitioners practice ethically and safely at all times including when the treatment involves the use of dental appliances and prostheses.

I understand that you have already been in contact with Michelle Thomas, Executive Officer – dental, regarding my appearance at the committee hearing. As this is primarily the jurisdiction of other regulators I do not feel that my appearance would add any further information than what is contained in this letter so I will decline the invitation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Lockwood', written in a cursive style.

Dr John Lockwood AM
Chair
Dental Board of Australia