



SOURCING OF DENTAL TECHNICAL WORK

Background

This Code of Practice has been developed in accordance with s374 of the *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999* and pursuant to the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001* and the *Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists Registration Act 2001*, as amended by the *Health Legislation Amendment Act 2003*.

The Board has developed this Code of Practice in response to a directive received on 30 October 2003 from the Minister for Health to prepare a Code of Practice to encourage dental prosthetists to source dental technical services from appropriately qualified and skilled staff.

The *Health Legislation Amendment Act 2003* changed the previously prescribed practice model for dental technicians. The fabrication, making, alteration, adjustment, repair or maintenance of dental appliances is no longer a restricted part of dentistry although the definition of dentistry does restrict the fitting or intra-oral adjustment for a person of artificial teeth or corrective or restorative dental appliances (s139A(4)(b)).

Moreover, under s125(6), of the *Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists Registration Act 2001*, a non-registrant cannot take or use a name, initial, symbol, word or description, that having regard to the circumstances in which it is used or taken, would reasonably indicate that the person is a registered dental technician or that they are qualified or authorised to practice the profession.

Where registrants are unsure of the application of the legislation and this Code of Practice they should seek advice from the Board.

The Board greatly appreciates the input of the Dental Board of Queensland, the Australian Commercial Dental Laboratories Association, the Australian Dental Association Inc. the Australian Dental Association (Queensland Branch), the Dental Technicians Association of Queensland, Australian Dental Prosthetists Association the Health Rights Commission, the Oral Health Unit Queensland Health, the School of Dentistry Griffith University and the Southbank TAFE in developing this Code of Practice.

Objectives

The objective of this Code of Practice is to provide guidance to dental prosthetists who seek dental technical services and to also assist consumers of

dental services involving the fabrication, making, alteration, adjustment, repair or maintenance of dental appliances to understand the legislation and the responsibilities of dental prosthetists.

Code of practice

This Code of Practice places the responsibility on dental prosthetists to source dental technical services made by appropriately qualified and skilled persons.

Accordingly, dental prosthetists should assess the skills and competence of dental technicians or other personnel undertaking their dental laboratory work. One measure of a dental technician's qualifications and skills is registration as a dental technician by the Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists Board of Queensland. Dental prosthetists should take notice of such registration when sourcing dental technical services.

References

Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001

Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists Registration Act 2001

Health Legislation Amendment Act 2003

Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999

These are available from the Office of Parliamentary Counsel at web site www.legislation.qld.gov.au

Further information

To lodge a complaint about the conduct of a dental prosthetist or dental technician contact:

Health Quality and Complaints Commission

GPO Box 3089, BRISBANE QLD 4001.

Tel: (07) 3234 0272/ 1800 077 308 (toll free)

Internet: www.hqcc.qld.gov.au

Professional Standards Unit

Office of Health Practitioner Registration Boards

GPO Box 2438, BRISBANE QLD 4001

Internet: www.healthregboards.qld.gov.au