Dental Board of Queensland

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO -

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IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
NO. D103 03-02-20

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Commissioner
MRA Review
Productivity Commission
PO Box 80
BELCONNEN 2616

Dear Mr Hinton

Mutual Recognition of Occupations - Dentists - Dental Board of Queensland

Thank you for your Mutual Recognition Circular dated 17 January 2003 advising of a review of Mutual Recognition arrangements.

In relation to your request for responses to issues and questions, at this stage the Board comments as follows:

- Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition

  There seems to be a disproportionate number of Dentists who are undertaking the Dental Council of New Zealand's Registration Examination in full, or in part, and then registering under Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition in Queensland.

  Since 1999 when Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition commenced, 8 Dentists who have qualifications which would not otherwise have entitled them to registration, have used this avenue to register in Queensland.

  The Board understands that the dental boards in the other Australian States and Territories are having similar experiences.

  The Board does have confidence in the full New Zealand registration examination, but there is an issue of a loss of Dentists for New Zealand where Dentist workforce problems are at least as critical as Australia's.

  It also suggests that in the case of Mutual Recognition with New Zealand, that New Zealand is the loser and that any further Mutual Recognition arrangements with other countries may result in disadvantaging Australia.

- Qualifications

  In registering a Dentist from another jurisdiction, the Board records as the person's qualification, "Mutual Recognition - participating jurisdiction - year of first registration in that jurisdiction", e.g., if Dr John Smith first registered in NSW in 1970 and then registered under Mutual Recognition in Queensland, his prescribed particulars would be John Smith, Mutual Recognition NSW 1970.

  This has resulted in the public not being aware of registrants' primary dental qualifications.

  The Board has proposed that the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001* (Qld) ought to allow for additional qualifications, but it has been unsuccessful.

  The Board therefore raises whether the requirements for applying for Mutual Recognition should also include the provision of a certified copy of the applicant's qualification.

  It is accepted that this may be a Queensland only, issue.

Attached is the Board's request to be kept informed about the review's progress.

The Board looks further to your further communications.

Yours sincerely

Peter Collie
Assistant Registrar