	Title: Position Statement 8: Recency of Practice	
	Date Reviewed: September 2014	Version PS8.14.0
	Approved by: Executive Council	Next Review: September 2015

Recency of Practice

MEDIA RELEASE

The ADOHTA supports the need to ensure its members are providing relevant, professional and competent care to their clients in a safe environment. To ensure practitioners are sufficiently knowledgeable and skilled in current oral health care practices they must at the time of registration, show that they fulfil the Recency of Practice requirements as stated by their respective Dental Boards. Compliance will ensure safety and competency and maintain the public's confidence in the dental profession.

FURTHER EXPLANATION

At the time of registration with the Dental Board a practitioner must be able to show they have practised competently in their profession within the last five years. This is regardless of whether work has been full time or part time, remunerated or not.

'Practice' may be used to broadly describe any professional clinical, academic, research or administration work within the field of oral care. The practitioner should also be able to declare they have fulfilled other competency indicators, which may include

- Participation in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and ongoing education e.g. formal seminars, workshops, lectures and conferences.
- Self directed professional development e.g. subscribing to professional publications, internet access, discussions with other work practitioners and professional colleagues or study groups.
- Maintaining a professional portfolio (which would particularly suit those members involved in education, research or administration)
- Experience in another professional stream e.g. clinical, education, research or administration.


When applying for registration applicants should have to complete a legal declaration confirming their fitness to practise or stating any intellectual, psychiatric or physical condition or substance dependence that may affect their ability to do so.

A sample of applications may be audited each year.

ADOHTA recognizes the need to take into account that its members may need to take leave from their profession for extended periods for family or health reasons and in doing so should not be unduly disadvantaged. A flexible approach in applying Recency of Practice requirements will benefit both the practitioner and the profession.

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH ROP REQUIREMENT

If applicants fail to meet the Recency of Practice criteria they may be required to undergo a written, oral or practical examination prior to registration being granted. Depending on the reason for non-compliance, practitioners may be expected by their respective Dental Boards to undertake any number of remedial courses including;

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- Successfully completing a recognized 'return to practice' course
- Demonstrating competence in an approved setting under direct or indirect supervision
- Undertaking a examination under the stipulations of a relevant Dental Act
- Undertaking a specific amount or type of Continuing Professional Development
- Undergoing any specified remedial activity within a certain time frame
- Peer contact and supervision

RESEARCH AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADOHTA believes that regular and ongoing consultative evaluation of its Recency of Practice requirements will help to achieve the primary objectives of the respective Dental Acts by

- ensuring health care is delivered by registrants in a professional, safe and competent way
- Upholding standards of practice within the profession
- Maintaining public confidence in the profession

Information contained in this statement has been obtained from the Dental Board of Queensland's draft policy - Recency of Practice (2007) and the Health Practitioners Act 2004.