

## **Decision of the Dental Board of Australia**

Performance and Professional Standards Panel

**Jurisdiction:** Queensland

**Date of Hearing:** 29 April 2013

**Date of Decision:** 29 May 2013

### **Classification of Notification:**

Clinical care – inadequate or inappropriate history or examination

Clinical care – inadequate or inappropriate treatment

Health record – inadequate or inaccurate or misleading

### **Allegations**

The dental practitioner faced allegations that they had engaged in unsatisfactory professional performance, in that they:

- incorrectly treated a patient with a crown and not root canal treatment
- failed to properly examine and diagnose the patient consistent with acceptable current practice and
- failed to maintain adequate records.

### **Finding**

The panel found that all of the allegations were proven and that the practitioner had engaged in unsatisfactory professional performance.

The panel found that the dentist had inappropriately relied on x-rays that were 17 months old and had failed to take proper steps to examine and diagnose the patient's tooth, contrary to acceptable current practice. The dentist had failed to take x-rays and conduct vitality tests before progressing the tooth for a crown, which may have revealed the true nature of the patient's condition which was an infection. The panel also found that the practitioner's records were not of a standard reasonably expected of a registered dentist.

Further, based on the answers the practitioner gave during the hearing, the panel found that the practitioner's understanding of the appropriate use of antibiotics was possibly inadequate.

### **Determination**

The panel cautioned the practitioner and imposed conditions on their registration requiring them to maintain membership with an approved professional association or body for three years and complete further education and training about the appropriate use of antibiotics within six months, at their own cost.