

Executive Officer  
National Board of Australia  
AHPRA  
GPO Box 9958  
Melbourne 3001

18 December 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: Public Consultation: Review of Criminal history registration standard and English language skills registration standard**

I refer to your letter of 25 October 2013 inviting ADPA Ltd to provide written comments on the content of the *Review of Criminal History Registration Standard and English language skills registration standard*, now in the Public Consultation phase.

ADPA Limited has considered the options put forward in the preliminary consultation paper and advises as follows:

- Review of Criminal History Registration Standard: the National Boards prefer Option 1.
  - ADPA Limited concurs with this preferred option. We have no specific responses in relation to the questions raised in your paper.
- Review of English Language skills Registration Standard: the National Boards prefer Option 2
  - Again, ADPA Limited concurs with the preferred option. We have no specific responses in relation to the questions raised in your paper.

In relation to the Review of English Language Skills, however, ADPA Ltd believes that the English language tests should be taken prior to the commencement of a student's course of study and that, once taken, they should have a validity period that extends at least to the conclusion of that period of study (eg four or five years). This would allow students to do the English language test at an earlier time period and ensure that language will not be an issue upon graduation and/or when seeking registration. It would also raise the standard of students entering the DP course and ensure that their language skills were not an impediment to their learning.

We would like to see AHPRA and the Dental Board implementing such a move through liaison with the relevant training providers, so that these providers make it a requirement that students complete the English language test prior to enrolment in a DP course.

We look forward to the outcomes of the consultation process and thank you for the opportunity of submitting our views.

Yours sincerely,



**Acting CEO  
Australian Dental Prosthetists Association Limited**