

From: Lindi Bowen
To: [dentalboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Re: scope of practice public consultation
Date: Sunday, 13 May 2018 9:21:38 PM
Attachments: [Image-1.png](#)

Dr John Lockwood
Chairman, Dental Board of Australia

G.P.O. Box 9958
Melbourne VIC 3001

Re: Scope of Practice Public Consultation

I am writing to commend and support the Dental Board's proposed changes to the Scope of Practice Registration Standard. The proposed changes will significantly improve the delivery of oral health services to the public and will enable all dental practitioners work to their full scope of practice based on their foundation training.

The focus on team dentistry is a model that optimises the best care for our patients whilst ensuring the safe and quality delivery of care. No dental practitioner should work independently and in isolation. The statistics from the Dental Board of Australia: Annual Report Summary 2016/17, demonstrates the safe provision of care by Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists, and Oral Health Therapists as the workforce who received very low numbers of notifications, and were of low risk.

I support the submission made by the Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists' Association (ADOHTA), the peak body for oral health practitioners.

I trust that this submission will further add to the sound rationale for these proposed changes. This will enhance the ideal that all consumers should receive dental care by the most appropriate dental practitioner at the right place at the right time. I support Option Two as recommended by the Board.

Yours sincerely,

Lindi Gill
Dental Therapist with Advanced Scope

Dear Dr Lockwood,
I graduated as a Dental Therapist in 2001. I have worked continuously since then in rural and remote locations.

I currently work in a supportive and energetic private clinic with five dentists and a hygienist. We all have our own roles and clients. Our referral pathway is easy, with no fuss.

My professionalism has being key to my success as a clinician and as trusted community member.

In 2015 I travelled to Melbourne Uni weekly to remove my treating age limit. This venture cost me \$32000 and is a testament to how I treat my career seriously.

I feel proud to be in this amazing role, often in a nurturing capacity that I as a Dental Therapist feel comfortable with.

I don't expect any dentist to wear the responsibility of my decisions. I stand next to my clients in the supermarket, at school assemblies and at the sporting grounds daily. I can not escape the responsibility I have as a clinician.

When I graduated from Westmead Dental Therapy College with only ten people in our class - I could never have imagined how much the OHT world would achieve - supportive Dentists are a godsend.

I eagerly await the day where we can as a profession, have our own provider numbers.

I wish you well Dr Lockwood.

Sincerely
Lindi Gill