

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a future Dentist this deregulation of dentists is of great concern to me. Firstly I would like to address that the longest Dental therapist's degree is 2 years (3 if you are including hygiene) and the University of Newcastle is offering a 1 year Dental Therapy graduate diploma (Sourced from Health Workforce Australia p88). So after one year of training Dental therapists will be able to treat adult patients without supervision. This is a very serious public safety issue.

The public will have a hard time knowing who is a Dentist and who is a Dental Therapist. There is clearly a large difference in the clinical experience between Dentists and dental therapists therefore it is of great importance that the title of Dentists not be equated with other oral health professionals.

Hygieneists, Therapists and Prosthetists are part of the multi-disciplinary team and are very capable in the area that they have been trained in. However deregulating the "Dentist" profession is not the right way to achieve our professional workforce goals. Hygieneists, therapists and prosthetists have a specific role in the community, particularly on a public health level, and deregulation of these roles negates the reason for why these roles were created in the first place.

These proposed changes to regulation of the Dentist profession will have distinct impact on the current workforce issues and negative employment ramifications for Dentists. I am therefore completely opposed to these changes as this is in a way an insult to the Dentists title for which I have worked very hard for and made many sacrifices in life.

Kind Regards,  
Ankit Srivastava  
(DDS - University of Melbourne)