

June 10 2013

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

Dear Sir/Madam

My main concern is that a major role of the OHT is to treat and educate children. OHTs are frankly trained to do this better than dentist graduates are. If OHTs instead spend their time treating adults, chasing a higher price will the OH needs of children be pushed aside? OHTs are also great at debridement, and are there to perform the debridements and give detailed OHI when the dentist may not have the time. I see no need for their scope to be expanded. They do what they do well because they concentrate on those important areas and should continue to concentrate on those areas.

Additionally, when it is already getting harder for dentists to find work, many employers will choose to hire OHTs over graduate dentists as they are cheaper and may be allowed to do many of the same procedures with the changes.

There is a definite role for OHTs. It is an important one and OHTs should be focussing on that. There is no need to expand their focus and encroach on the role of a dentist especially since there is a looming oversupply of dentists.

Possible outcome of this change would be OHTs going into practices as pseudo dentists and taking on the adult patients for the money at the expense of taking time for OHI with patients and children

Yours Sincerely

Kim Nguyen