

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [dentalboardconsultation](#)  
**Subject:** Feedback re scope of practice changes  
**Date:** Tuesday, 18 June 2013 7:27:59 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I completely disagree with the latest proposed changes to scope of practice of oral health practitioners. I think the changes are counter-productive, reduce the standard and quality of dental treatment being offered, and most importantly, put patient's safety at risk.

1. I ABSOLUTELY DO NOT agree that the revision will lead to greater clarity and certainty for dental practitioners. Breaking down the prescriptive nature will only lead to more confusion, not clarity. A team approach requires INCREASED prescriptive of each dental practitioner. You do not have an effective fluid team where members' responsibilities become blurred .
2. Introduction of the guidelines DO NOT support increased clarity.
3. I DO NOT agree with the list of skills in the guidelines relating to programs to extend practice. If dental hygienists/therapists/oral health therapists desire to obtain the necessary skills and expertise to safely and effectively manage adult patients- then they must go and completely proper dental training to become a dentist. Bridging programs are inadequate to prepare them with sufficient knowledge and experience. Allowing this would lead to a DRAMATIC DEGRADATION of the quality of dental skills provided for the patient. The dentist has been trained COMPREHENSIVELY through their 5-7 years of arduous under/post graduate degree and this should be the ONLY PATHWAY.
4. The proposal DOES NOT serve to look after the general public at all. It will lead to increased confusion amongst the public as to who they are being treated by. Clarity will not be achieved through deregulation of prescriptives. Instead THE SCOPE OF PRACTICES SHOULD BE MADE CLEARER. THE TEAM APPROACH WILL ONLY WORK EFFECTIVELY THROUGH CLEARER DESCRIPTIONS OF ROLES.

ThaKind regards,

LGuDr YG (dentist, Sydney)

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