

Dear Sir/ Madam

Oral disease is almost totally preventable.

Why then is there such an imbalance between investment in treatment and prevention in the oral health system?

Do we really need more treatment providers?

A model of care which is responsible should include oral health promotion and in which the healthcare team works with the individual and the community to reduce their risk of chronic disease. This would seem a better use of resources as opposed to more and more treatment based systems.

Although it is recognized that Dental Therapists and OHTs would need to deliver clinical treatment, particularly restorative services for children, the core of their education and their knowledge and proficiency is in oral health and public health promotion. This aspect of their value to the dental team is being neglected by concentrating on delivery of restorative services for which they will need greater training.

The proposals for increase in the scope of practice for dental prosthetists presupposes that these areas of treatment are merely technical issues of prosthesis construction whereas the major aspect is in fact the diagnosis of the need for the appliance and its design from a variety of choices. Dental prosthetists would need significantly greater training as they have limited training in the area of diagnosis.

Yours sincerely
Anders Blomberg