

From: [REDACTED]
To: [dentalboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Changes to OHT scope of Practice
Date: Friday, 14 June 2013 3:57:15 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to oppose the proposed changes to the scope of practice for Oral Health Therapists. There have been a lot of arguments put forward as I'm sure you have heard so far but I would like to highlight my main concern. My main concern is that the focus of OHTs will be shifted from treating children and oral health education. OHTs have a specific role to play within the oral health team. They are great at treating children, debridement and oral health education. That is what they are trained to do and they do it well. OHTs have the time to spend completing full mouth debridements and educating people about proper oral healthcare that dentists do not. OHTs take the time necessary for these activities so that the dentists may concentrate on the more complex treatment of adults that they have been trained to do. OHTs spend a lot of time training to treat children and they do this very well. Better than many dentists in fact. Their focus should be kept squarely on these very important areas. If OHTs' focus was expanded to include the treatment of adults, OHTs would move their focus away from the important areas of prevention, oral health education and the treatment of children and spend more time on the higher paying and more complex work they would be allowed to do. In a time where there is an imminent over supply of dentists there is no need to move the focus of OHTs away from their specific and imperative roles. The proposed changes will create pseudo-dentists, less skilled at treating the adult patient and move focus away from the successful education and treatment of children. OHTs have an important role to play, and they currently do it well. There is absolutely no need to change this. I hope to receive a reply to let me know that my voice has been heard on this matter.

Regards,
Brendan Clarnette