

Dear Dental Board

I would like to make comment regarding to the draft posted on the 8th of May, 2013 for public consultation. I am a dentist currently working in Queensland for the last 10 years and I've experienced different Medicare dental scheme and working together with other dental practitioners.

First of all, I believe that all dental practitioner working in a team approach is of the best interest of general health. As different practitioner are all trained in different area, proper allocation and team work would be the best use of resources. However, team work without leader may be very confusing to the public and dental practitioner. At present, general dentist are acting like general doctor who assess the patient thoroughly on every aspect of their oral health, further allocating or refer to other specialist or dental practitioner on need base. Most patient know to seek advice or help from dentist for their problem. When supervision requirement is removed, public will be responsible to "diagnosis" themselves as to which dental practitioner to approach. As no other dental practitioner has thorough training on all field of oral health other than dentist, removing dentist as team leader may be of more confusion for public.

Good example I had a patient in our surgery last year with denture made by dental prothetist under Medicare Chronic Care Scheme. Denture is made with good standard, however, through conversation with patient, very little focus was spent on diagnosis of oral hygiene habit and education was given. I believe this would be a better managed if the patient attend a dentist first.

As to the standard, it stated that under appropriate training, dental practitioner can practice a list of procedure. I don't believe there is any standardize training or review of standard on education facility at present. Freedom of performing advanced treatment such as sleep apnoea appliance and implant supported denture or occlusal splint with no regulated training program can be of serious harm to the patient's health. It's my personal view that dental board should focus more on regulating the standard of training and education provision, together with promoting public health awareness. Currently there are very limited public oral health promotion especially in school and for the elderly (retirement village).

Best regards

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