

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [dentalboardconsultation](#)  
**Subject:** Scope of practice  
**Date:** Tuesday, 18 June 2013 11:57:20 PM

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Hi,

In utter discontent I am sending this email in response to the recent proposals for change in scope of practice for allied dental health members such as oral hygienists, oral therapists etc.

This proposal has the hallmarks of a dental health disaster written all over it. All parties are set to be disadvantaged by the proposal.

Firstly, it is highly irresponsible towards patients to allow anyone other than a qualified dentist/dental specialist to carry out invasive irreversible dental procedures (simple/complex restorations, extractions, root canal treatments etc) on any patient of any age.

This is common sense. A dentist has undergone 4+ years of education both theory and practical in medicine and dentistry in order to proficiently and holistically manage patients. From the treatment planning phase to treatment completion phase and beyond. Allowing ancillary staff to simply complete a short course in restorative dentistry, or a course on minor oral surgery does not qualify that individual or deem them proficient at delivering a health service.

As a dentist who had earned the right to be called Dr. I can attest to the demanding nature of the bachelor of dentistry course. In the first two years our training begins with the dental theory, simulated practical exercises along with the ever demanding medical course which is completed along side the medical students. Human anatomy, disease states and pharmacology are all topics that are covered and good level of understanding in all aspects is required to progress onto 3rd and 4th year dentistry. At this stage further theoretical and practical skills are reinforced by supervised clinical time at Sydney dental hospital and westmead hospital. Specialist skills such as endodontics, oral surgery, prosthodontics and orthodontics are further covered and clinically applied before graduating at the end of 4th year.

A dentist is a dentist, an oral physician a doctor of the oral cavity, and a dental therapist is an allied dental health colleague dealing with reversible preventative dental procedures such as dental cleaning, fluoride therapy and fissure sealing. There is no need to blur the lines.

I believe that this proposal is dangerous and passing it would be irresponsible towards the public.

Kind regards  
Dentist NSW