

Dear members,

I am writing in response to the changes in the scope of practice review. I would like to show my support of the changes in the scope of practice that is suggested.

I am a mother to adult children. I and my children have been irregular attenders to dental office, but on the occasions we attend through the school and in private clinics I have been introduced to dentists, dental therapists, hygienists, specialist dentists and oral health therapists. I have found each of these people very capable of their specific duties.

After reading the changes suggested, I noticed that therapists, hygienists and OHT are the only dental professionals that are not considered independent practitioners. This baffles me because I have felt completely safe in their care and allowing them to care for my children's teeth. I have found them just as competent as any other dental professionals. The therapists were so patient and caring towards my children when they were young.

I am please the word supervision has been removed because I never seen someone physically supervising therapist, hygienist and OHT's work; no one came to check the work they did for myself or my children. I actually did not know they were being supervised in my visits because they did all the work required. I think the next logical step is to declare them independent. I would feel completely comfortable entrusting therapists, hygienists and OHT with the dental care of my family.

I think the changes make the team approach to dental care clear to the public. It shows a collaborative effort in caring for peoples dental needs. I think this has been happening for a lot of years. So I believe the changes support the actual workings of a dental team.

Finally, I would like to offer my support of the revised changes to the scope of practice. I think another change should allow therapists, hygienist and OHT to be independent practitioners.

Thanks you for inviting the public to respond.

Rhonda Johnston