

From: [REDACTED]
To: [dentalboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Scope of practice
Date: Wednesday, 19 June 2013 10:50:16 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm not sure where to start. The advised changes seem so wildly inappropriate that I'm sure my interpretation must be incorrect.

First, can I ask if general dentists, based on their undergraduate education be able to continue providing all the services they are currently allowed to including

- placing implants and restoring them
- providing full fixed orthodontics for our patients
- use rotary instruments for molar endo

I finished my course in 2004 and although educated in all these aspects, I only really gained adequate experience with further education. In non university based education programs.

My second main question is targeted at the scope of practice for oral therapists. I was already concerned that a practitioner with one of the shortest bachelor degrees available could practice on the adult dentition. Now it looks like the proposal is to allow them to work on the public population independently!

I can see the idea is to increase accessibility of dentistry to the public. This isn't going to help, it certainly won't improve the quality of treatment provided. You might as well not bother with exams for international dentists and just let them practice as a therapist, at least they will have a better education. just don't understand the rationale.

Australia has always had a great reputation for high quality dentistry. It's been a highly regulated and respectable industry. Now it seems like APRAH is wanting to make it a free-for-all with a total disregard for the quality of service.

Really, it's going to create a confused situation where parents will unknowingly send their child to a dental therapist. They'll expect to be seen by a qualified practitioner with a sound understanding of the human body, backed with years of clinical training. NOT someone who has completely a relatively unchallenging degree in as little as a year or two. The public will presume a high level of training as it is inconceivable that they would be exposed to someone with such little training.

Please don't destroy this fantastic and respectable industry with such radical and irresponsible changes.

Regards

Dr Valence Roberts [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone