

From: [REDACTED]
To: [dentalboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Dental therapist as independent practitioners
Date: Wednesday, 19 June 2013 2:25:29 PM

I am concerned about the decision to have dental therapists recognized as independent practitioners.

There is an over supply of dentists in the system. This will continue to worsen as the government refuses to recognize the need to reduce the intake of local students and to remove dentists from the list of desired professions for immigrants.

Practices in Tasmania have been inundated by young graduate dentists seeking employment. Having the therapists as independent practitioners will make matters worse. A 2 year graduate course versus a 5 year course in competition for the same pool of patients is unacceptable. There is the element of expertise and training in dealing with oral health which a 2 year course will not be adequate and will put the public at risk of malpractice.

The entry into dentistry is strictly controlled and based on high academic scores and the UMAT/GAMSET. The dental therapy course have lower academic entry standards. It is impossible for a 2 year course to deliver the same level of training as a 5 year dental course. Without a doubt the overall quality of dentistry will suffer.

I have 30 years practicing dentistry full time and I see this as a real threat to the integrity of the profession by lowering the standards expected by all our patients.

Dr.Coreen Ho

Sent from my iPad