



Standing Council on Health (meeting as the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council)

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Dr John Lockwood
Chair
Dental Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Dr Lockwood

Thank you for your letter of 17 February 2014, advising that the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) has completed its review of the current approved Scope of practice registration standard and recommending that the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the AHWMC) approves the proposed revised scope of practice registration standard for dental practitioners (the revised registration standard).

I am pleased to advise that pursuant to Section 12 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each State and Territory (the National Law), the AHWMC decided on 11 April 2014 to approve the revised registration standard.

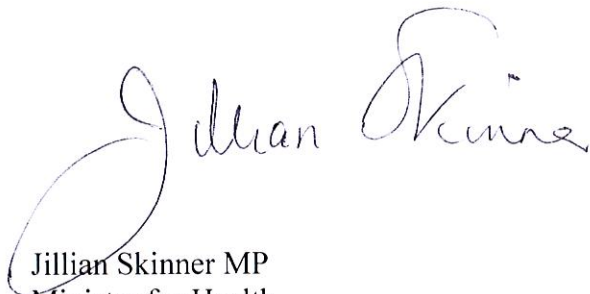
In making this approval, Ministers accepted advice from the Board that the revisions will provide better clarity and certainty to dental practitioners on the scope of practice for the different divisions and level of education and training expected for each division; and in doing so provide improved access to oral health services, protection and certainty to the public. Ministers also noted the new scope of practice guidelines provided as part of the board's submission. We understand that these guidelines will take effect simultaneously with the revised registration standard to provide a smooth transition.

Ministers acknowledge that the Board considered the conclusions of Health Workforce Australia's 2012 report *Oral Health Practitioner Role and Scope of Practice Review* as part of the Board's review and provided advice, as we requested, on scope of practice and new models of care and training as part of your review of the current registration standard.

The Board's commitment to monitoring the effectiveness of the approved revised registration standard and guidelines, and to reviewing the standard and guidelines within three years of commencement, is welcomed by Ministers.

We trust that communicating the AHWMC's approval will enable the Board to publish the approved registration standard as soon as practicable to support the proposed implementation of the revised registration standard and new guidelines before June 2014.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jillian Skinner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jillian Skinner MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Medical Research
Chair, AHWMC

11 / 4 / 2014

cc: Director Board Services AHPRA, Chris.Robertson@ahpra.gov.au