

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

Dear Dr Lockwood

Consultation on a proposed revised Scope of practice registration standard and Guidelines for scope of practice.

The Australian Dental Prosthetists Association is the peak body representing the interests of Australian dental prosthetists and their patients.

Our Association's principal purpose is to advance, improve, support and foster the interests, development and status of dental prosthetists and to increase awareness and recognition of the profession across all sectors of society.

ADPA welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the public consultation on a proposed revised Scope of practice registration standard and Guidelines for scope of practice and supports the proposed changes as outlined:

- remove reference to Programs to extend scope from the registration standard and guidelines giving effect to the Board's decision to phase out the approval process of these programs with a transition period until 31 December 2018
- clarify expectations around education, training and competence including revisions to the practitioner dental divisions and strengthening the link between an approved program of study and the relevant professional competencies
- reduce unnecessary regulation in light of well-established accreditation functions which have shaped practitioner training and competencies
- further clarify the Board's expectations around the team-based approach and remove the requirement for a structured professional relationship, and
- improve readability and clarify current requirements by restructuring and re-wording the standard and guidelines.

The Association supports the removal of the requirements of 'independent practitioner' and 'structured professional relationship', and we support practitioners self-assessing whether their selected CPD activities/courses provide them with the sufficient clinical experience to incorporate a new procedure/technique/treatment into their clinical practice.

These proposed changes are less ambiguous and, we believe, can be more easily understood by dental practitioners and the public.

Further, we support the proposed removal of reference to programs to extend scope, and for these programs to be continued to be delivered as continuing professional development. We will be encouraging our members to self-assess that CPD activities provide them with the sufficient clinical experience to incorporate the new treatment into their practice, that they are competent in any new procedure, and that the activity or course that they undertake is relevant to their core knowledge and skills.

We sought feedback from members on the new reflective tool and comments received were that the tool was helpful and clear. Those that tested this for us found the questions relevant and this prompted answers accordingly. The Association believes that the tool will assist practitioners to recognise their own individual scope and enable them to determine when they need to involve another practitioner to treat the patient with them.

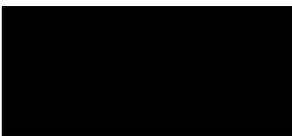
The ADPA does not wish to provide feedback on a proposed revised scope of other members of the dental team or areas outside of the scope of practice of dental prosthetists. As a key stakeholder we will always cooperate with the Board in working towards safeguarding the interests of the public and we appreciate the opportunity to consider this matter.

The ADPA believes this update of the standards and guidelines further emphasises the team approach to dentistry and supports all dental practitioners practicing independently according to their education, training and competence.

Should you require our Association to comment further on a proposed revised Scope of practice registration standard and Guidelines for scope of practice, please do not hesitate to contact myself via our Chief Executive Officer, Jeremy Irvine.

We thank the Board for the opportunity to comment on these important matters, and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the Board and our dental profession colleagues.

Yours sincerely



Jenine Bradburn
President
9 May 2018