

-----Original Message-----

From: Dr Gosia Barley [mailto:]

Sent: Sunday, 6 May 2018 11:26 PM

To: dentalboardconsultation <dentalboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au>

Subject: Opposition to Scope of Practice ammendment

To whom it may concern,

I am a registered Specialist Orthodontist in Perth working across five clinical locations, four in metropolitan Perth and one in the South West. Given the nature and duration of Orthodontic treatment and the geographical footprint of the practice, I am witness/or exposed to a broad level of general dental care across Perth. As such, I feel I can adequately discuss the level of dental care within our state as we work with a vast proportion of private practitioners.

I am continuously perplexed at how the dental field is evolving due to the already inadequate regulation, and the level of patient care and protection is deteriorating. With strong marketing companies promoting quick weekend courses to “train” general practitioners and providing false sense of security, social media and marketing support, dental practitioners are embarking on treatment well beyond their expertise and clinical skills. Often for greater costs than specialists in the field and with a compromised result. I fear the same will result with deregulating the scope of practice for DT/DH/OHT to general dental practitioners, as once again spurred by marketing, companies, social media, corporate dental structures, treatment will be undertaken well beyond the diagnostic and clinical abilities of the DT/DH/OHT clinician and result in devastating results for the patient. The biological cost of repair let alone the time, financial and emotional turmoil then to the patient is truly significant.

In changing this scope of practice for dental therapists/hygienists and oral health therapists, and allowing for “self-regulated” practice, it is taking away adequate protection for our community and opening the profit margins to dental companies.

Please do not proceed with this. In a profession that is already seeing the turmoil of general practitioners practicing beyond their scope of practice in fields of complex dentistry. DT/DH and OHT have insufficient training and education in the diagnosis of oral disease, treatment planning and clinical skills to operate independently and without the Structured Professional Relationship.

Thank you for your time in advance,

Gosia Barley
Orthodontist