

**From:** Laura Jarvis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 10 May 2018 1:59 PM  
**To:** dentalboardconsultation <dentalboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Scope of Practice Consultation

**Re: Scope of Practice Public Consultation**

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to inform you that I disagree with the Board's consideration of therapist and hygienists to function autonomously. This decision will place patients at risk and negatively impact the reputation and trust of the dental profession. Dentists are educated and trained to comprehensively treatment plan which involves all facets of dental care, and to assess risks and refer where appropriate.

Autonomy of allied health professionals will no doubt result in misdiagnosis, mismanagement, and mistreatment due to insufficient training and education. I have personally worked with a hygienist who commonly would misdiagnose and recommend restorations where restorations were not indicated while missing caries that were indicated for treatment.

This proposed system of autonomy creates an environment that no doubt will lead to confusion with the general public and potential misrepresentation of ones qualifications/skill level. This is something that we see occurring already with hygienists and therapist who designate themselves with titles such as "Smile Specialists", and "Myobrace Practitioner". This is very misleading to patients, and while such representations are in contravention of the law, there is minimal to no enforcement of the law. The best interest of the public would be met with further regulations and enforcement of those regulations, rather than deregulation which, in my opinion, would be a move in the wrong direction.

Regards,

Dr. Laura Jarvis

BSc, BDent