

From: thea meneses
To: [dentalboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Scope of Practice Consultation
Date: Saturday, 12 May 2018 9:10:53 PM

To whom it may concern,

In light of the recent proposed changes, I don't entirely follow why these changes are made.

I have been working closely with a hygienist and our roles, clearly defined, have been such that I am the professional who is in the long run responsible for the patients ultimate treatment. I therefore think the existing working relationship between dentists and auxiliaries to be working very well. Auxilliaries are an important part of the team. By changing the current arrangement, will open them to higher insurance costs and more reporting of the public about negligence. At the moment they have this protection as dentists take on these risks.

I fail to understand how it could benefit the public anymore than it does. Will the public have more access?? I don't think so as clearly identified when more dentists were pumped out from universities and the ADC enthusiastically passed overseas trained dentists. This resulted in an oversupply, difficulty in employment and a race to the bottom as each dentist tried to undercut each other and the opening of various No Gap dental surgeries.

I think it will confuse patients... Do they see an auxiliary because they can't afford a dentist but the auxiliary cannot offer all treatments? Only to have to make another appointment, another exam fee, another time to be referred to a dentist. Patient's time is important.

Do they call themselves doctors now? I have actually seen an advertisement in a local paper wherein the Hygeinist/Therapist had Dr in front of their name, I did not see any Phd qualifications printed.

Will they be allowed to open their own practice?Further suffocating metropolitan cities. Let's face it, they won't go to rural communities.

This won't create more access but patients will be shopping around for the cheapest price in town. People without money still won't be able to afford treatment.

Whilst auxiliaries are asking for an increase in their pay, I have heard of dentists who are paid well below the norm. This is unbelievable and insulting considering the length of time they studied, including their initial degree. It is a sad time for dentists in Australia. But, I guess this is not taken into consideration by the board as dentists are still seen to be earning exorbitant amounts of money. There has been a lot of quiet times in the past years, and if I am not working then I don't earn anything in that time.

As the governing body, I hope that you have the foresight and not hindsight to see that this change will have a detrimental affect to dental health in this country. If this goes ahead, I hope that it is such that there will be a clearly thought regulation and close monitoring as a review in 3 or 5 years isn't good enough to reverse any negative consequences. There needs to be accountability if it goes pear shaped.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thea Meneses
BDent