

From: Jude Ottaway
To: [dentalboardconsultation](#)
Subject: DBA Submission
Date: Friday, 11 May 2018 12:34:38 AM

To the Dental Board.

I am very pleased to see the proposed changes recommended to the DBA, which reflect the professionalism and skills registered Dental Therapists, Hygienists and OHT's can offer to the community.

I have been a registered Dental Therapist for over 30 years and love my work and my profession. I am very disappointed to read public social media led comments from ADA members denigrating my profession. I work within my scope. I perform the duties I have been trained for and have remained current in.

I have worked in environments where I have had my skill set reduced and have had restrictive practice of my duties. One workplace told my patients that I cannot see them or do a particular treatment because it was illegal (which was incorrect). On many occasions I informed my workplace that performing these duties was within my scope and skill set, however if I were to see those patients for that particular treatment, there would be economic and financial loss to them. This was anti-competitive behaviour which left me using a small swatch of my skill set, and also at a financial disadvantage. I saw no other option but to leave this workplace.

In another workplace, there have been occasions when I have requested the input of the dentist on that shift to confirm treatment planning and diagnosis of radiographs along with a review of my patient. Because of the financial arrangements, there was a reluctance of that dentist to see or review my patients because there would be no direct financial gain. I believe this is not in the spirit of the "Team Leader" the ADA so strongly advocates. I am always pleased to share, discuss and work collaboratively with Dentists as we all have different roles. We can collaborate and work together with respect.

I am pleased to say I am now in a very happy environment where the specialist I work for recognises my depth and experience in dentistry, where we will both collaboratively work together and seek input from each other on our treatment planning. I wish there was this same respect through-out the broader dental community.

I urge the DBA to adopt the recommended scope and allow registered dental practitioners to perform the duties they have been trained for and can perform so well.

Regards

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