

From: Albert Tan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 6 May 2018 8:09 PM
To: dentalboardconsultation <dentalboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au>
Cc: Secretary DSSWA [REDACTED]
Subject: Scope of practice for Allied Dental practitioners.

Dental Board Consultation,
AHPRA.

6.5.18

Re: Scope of practice for Allied Dental practitioners.

It is with great concern that I note two main agenda items in the proposed changes to the scope of practice for Allied Dental Practitioners, viz:

- The Dental Board of Australia proposes to remove the “Structured Professional Relationship” (SPR) under which Dental Therapists, Dental Hygienists and Oral Health Therapists currently operate.
- Included in the proposal is the ability for these Allied Dental Professionals to “self-reflect” on their learning and decide individually whether they have received sufficient training to perform acts of dentistry.

Firstly, to remove the SPR as it currently operates will be totally counter-productive as their varied training (Dental Therapists, Hygienists and Oral Health Therapists) reflect their role as “auxiliaries” and not as the primary care giver (Dental practitioner) who is responsible for the comprehensive examination, diagnoses and treatment plan for the patient. It is inconceivable that changing the SPR will improve public accessibility to better (and cheaper) dentistry for the public.

Secondly, it is outrageous to suggest that “self-reflection” is somehow a substitute for proper peer-reviewed training and examination for a group of individuals who are already suggesting that their role should be extended beyond their original training.

As a Dental Practitioner of 44 years, and a Specialist for 40 years, I find this proposed legislation ludicrous to the extreme, driven by a small group of individuals who should take the next step and train as dentists if they wish to pursue the scope of practice that reflects their training. The public will be better served if they have the courage of their conviction.

Albert E.S Tan
Periodontist
BSc, BSc (WA), MSc (Lond), PhD (Qld)
MRACDS (Perio), FADI, FPFA, FICD

PERIO:
PERTH

Perio Perth
Carine Glades Commercial Centre
Suite 5/6, Davallia Road, Duncraig
W. Australia 6023
T: (08) 9447 3700

