



PO Box 3410  
Rundle Mall  
South Australia 5000

08 8226 6191  
healthCHCsecretariat@sa.gov.au

[www.coaghealthcouncil.gov.au](http://www.coaghealthcouncil.gov.au)

Dr Murray Thomas  
Chair, Dental Board of Australia  
GPO Box 9958  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Via mail: [Rachel.griffiths@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:Rachel.griffiths@ahpra.gov.au)

Dear Dr Thomas

**Approval of the revised scope of practice registration standard**

Thank you for your letter of 27 November 2018, on behalf of the Dental Board of Australia (the DBA), submitting the proposed revised scope of practice registration standard.

I am pleased to advise that pursuant to section 12 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory, the Ministerial Council decided on 31 October 2019, to approve the revised registration standard as recommended by the Board.

Prior to approving the revised registration standard, Health Ministers asked the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) to undertake an independent review of the proposal to assess the patient quality, patient safety implications and the consumer benefit of the proposed revised scope of practice registration standard. The independent review report was submitted to our November 2019 meeting.

Health Ministers note that the ACSQHC found that the DBA's proposed changes to the scope of practice registration standard are broadly in line with contemporary dental care provision in health systems similar to Australia, that there is no evidence that the proposed changes to the registration standard will have an adverse effect on patient safety and quality, and that under-serviced Australian communities may benefit from removal of the structured relationship with a dentist and the bar on independent practice, in terms of improved access, waiting and referral times.

Thank you for also providing, for our information, the revised Guidelines for scope of practice, that have been updated in light of the independent review and ongoing engagement with the profession throughout 2019 to support implementation of the revised registration standard.

We understand that the DBA will now further engage with all key stakeholders ahead of the planned commencement of the approved revised standard from mid-2020, and there will be a post-implementation review around July 2021 to consider the impact of the changed registration standard and ensure there are no unintended impacts. Ministers expect that the Board will consult with all stakeholders on an approach to this post-implementation review.

Thank you for bringing the Board's proposal to Ministerial Council.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Cook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hon Roger Cook MLA

Chair, COAG Health Council

1 November 2019