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Friday, 11th May 2018

Re: Scope of Practice Public Consultation

Each thank the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) for the opportunity to provide feedback as part of the Consultation process on a proposed revised Scope of practice registration standard and Guidelines for scope of practice.

Each is supportive of the proposed changes to the Scope of Practice Registration Standard and Guidelines set out in Option 2 of the Consultation paper. (See below)

Option two – proposed revised registration standard and guidelines

- Option two is to consult on a number of proposed changes to the current registration standard and guidelines. Under this option, the proposed revised registration standard and guidelines would continue to set out the Board's requirements for scope of practice however it would: remove reference to Programs to extend scope from the registration standard and guidelines giving effect to the Board's decision to phase out the approval process of these programs with a transition period until 31 December 2018
- Clarify expectations around education, training and competence including revisions to the practitioner dental divisions and strengthening the link between an approved program of study and the relevant professional competencies
- Reduce unnecessary regulation in light of well-established accreditation functions which have shaped practitioner training and competencies
- Remove the requirements for dental hygienists, dental therapists and oral health therapists not to practise as independent practitioners
- Further clarify the Board's expectations around the team-based approach and remove the requirement for a structured professional relationship
- Improve readability and clarify current requirements by restructuring and re-wording the standard and guidelines.

As part of this option the Board has developed a new reflective tool for scope of practice to help practitioners assess their individual scope and support continuous learning through reflective practice. Implementation of this tool would be supported by a broad communications strategy to deliver effective engagement and uptake.