

**From:** Cate Corcoran  
**To:** [dentalboardconsultation](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed changes to scope  
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Good evening

I am a Dental Therapist with increased scope of practice 41 years old.

I work in a rural area at two practices 100km apart.

The scope should be changed. I support the board for these changes

1. Removal of reference to programs to extend scope
2. Clarify expectations around education, training and competence
3. Remove the requirements of 'independent practitioner'
4. Remove the requirement of a structured professional relationship

The main reason for me is to have the recognition of my achievements and education and to unite us as part of the dental team.

If the board were to read some of the feedback from not all but many dentists on a private forum called DPR this itself shows the concern we face daily and are forced to be sub level in the profession and not be able to do what it is we have trained as many do not know and will not allow us to perform our duties/procedures.

This will allow more professionals to relate to us and our training like any other profession and do what we have been trained and also clarify our responsibilities and duties

I work closely with dentists many of them are my friends

I already refer to many specialists and I call many specialists when I refer to get feedback so I can work on a professional relationship

I don't want to do any other procedures that I wasn't trained to do I just want to do what I was trained to do and do it well and refer all other procedures that are out of my scope

I go to cpd lectures to make sure I am up to date on all clinical procedures every year to at least \$5000++ so I am up to date and I believe I know my scope well enough to refer when necessary

As for my colleagues that are against us being recognised as independent shame on you for not moving forward and embracing the change. To feel threatened and then attack us all stereotypically as most of you are is unprofessional and outdated.

We don't want to be dentists if we did we could attend university and do that I am proud of my job and what we do.

our dental board and aphra do a wonderful job to make sure we are trained correctly and continue our CPD to ensure we are safe for OUR patients.

Please allow us as a profession to be united and approve the change.

In the future I hope we can have our own provider number and refer to an OMFS or use our provider number for our CDBS/Medicare patients and be responsible for it entirely.

Thank you so much for your time.

Catherine Corcoran

Dental Therapist