

From: John Pickup
To: [dentalboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Scope of Practice Consultation
Date: Friday, 11 May 2018 2:06:19 PM

Dear Board Members,

What is the aim of allowing hygienists and therapists to treat people independently? Is it to reduce the cost to the general public?

If that is the case I submit that the board is mistaken.

There will be the cost of plant and equipment as there would in any dental surgery, office space, rent, furnishings etc.

Will they operate with an assistant and or a receptionist or both?

Will sterilization include tracking of instruments requiring more labour? After all scalers and brushes etc. are the most bloody of all instruments.

Will the public expect sophisticated advice on TMJ, orthodontics, use of lasers etc.?

At the moment I believe hygienists charge out fees of 150-200 per hour which can be effectively a loss to a dental office. Are they going to charge a realistic \$500 per hour depending on the efficiency of the operation?

Hygiene or therapy work is often subsidized by other jobs in the dentist's office such as band changes, study models, xray taking. I believe most will find it uneconomical on their own.

Dentists may find that they will have to increase the amount of auxiliary work at the expense of specialized work if many auxiliaries attempt to go independent. Further reducing dentist's usefulness to the general public. Most dentists will provide the services at a much cheaper and more efficient rate.

No one will be better off except dental supply companies who will supply equipment for a short time until it all appears later on the second hand market.

Yours faithfully,

John Pickup (for many years the chairman of the Tas branch economics committee)