

Dear Dental Board members,

I would like to respond to the scope of practice review that is currently open for public consultation.

I think the changes the board is proposing is long overdue and very warranted. I completely agree with the changes.

The changes have obviously considered the public safety and I think the changes are clear concise and empower the public to understand the dynamics of the dental profession.

The revised document outlines a team approach to the dental care provided to patients. As a patient I have always noticed a team approach in my care throughout the years. This is between dental therapist, dentists, specialists and dental hygienists. In my opinion, each of these professionals have been as capable and important as the next. I like that the board has given definitions of the types of professionals one may encounter at the dental office.

I don't understand why dental therapists and dental hygienists and oral health therapist cannot practice independently though. As a child and now an adult patient I have always found these people to be very professional, caring and intricate in their care. These days, I have noticed the hygienist spends more time investigating my dental health, as opposed to the dentist who focuses on treating decay. I know I would continue to be cared for by the dentist and hygienist if each professional was recognised as a independent practitioner, but I think dental therapists, hygienists and oral health therapists are more than capable of practicing independently.

Thank you for inviting the public's input on this topic.

I do hope the dental board decides to confirm the changes to the scope of practices. I also would like to encourage the board to declare all dental team members as independent practitioners.

Sincerely,

Brendan Bayley