

Dear DBA members,

In response to the review of scope of practice, I agree to with option two in revising the standard.

I believe removing the word 'supervision' from the standard is appropriate and a 'structured professional relationship' more accurately describes the current working practices of OHT, DT and DH. The definition of structured professional relationship is clearly defined for dental professionals and the general public to understand.

I don't believe revising the document will change current working practices of dental practitioners. But I believe it does provide greater clarity and certainty for dental practitioners to know they are working within their scope of practice. It also uses more appropriate language to describe the relationships they work within.

Introducing the guidelines is beneficial in explaining the basics of the dental team and their working relationships. I believe it will help to eliminate any misconceptions arising for interpretation of the standard. Defining each dental profession is very important and the guidelines have done this in a clear and concise manner.

I believe the revisions suggested are easy to read and understand for all people. It simply explains the different scopes of practice that exist. It provides explanations that will allow the public to better understand the dimensions of the dental team.

This revision considers public's health, safety and the suggested changes do not in any way jeopardise public safety. This is because the revised standard does not suggest any changes to the practices of any dental professionals. Therefore, the current practices of dental professionals will continue as is, but this practice is better explained to the public by their governing body.

I believe the most important aspect of dentistry is maintain the dental health and treating dental disease in the public. I believe dental care is a basic human right that should be afforded to everyone. The proposed review is appears to be more aligned with the current practices of dental professionals. I believe it provides better clarity of the dimensions of the dental team, and this has been neglected in the past.

Although, I do encourage the board to remove the statement "OHT, DT and DH must not practice as independent practitioners". I believe this statement cause confusion around who is responsible for the treatment provided. I don't believe removing this statement will alter the current practicing of OHT, DT, and DH but will allow the public to recognise that they are fully qualified to perform duties within their scope of practice.

In conclusion, I agree with the proposed changes to the standard and the introduction of the guidelines. I believe it is a review that better empowers dental practitioners and the public to understand scope of practice and professional relationships that exist within the dental team. Removing 'supervision' from the standard will not change the way dental professionals practice dentistry but better explains the actual relationships within the dental team.

Sincerely,

Katrina Northey