

To the members of the DBA,

This letter is in reply to the scope of practice review from a number of members of the 2014 graduate cohort of the Bachelor of Oral Health degree at the University of Queensland.

As future Oral Health Therapists, we agree with the DBA in selecting option two when reviewing the scope of practice.

We support the removal of the term ‘supervision’ from the standard. We agree that a ‘structured professional relationship’ better describes the working relationship between Oral Health Therapists and Dental Officers. The definition of a structured professional relationship provided by the DBA is appropriate and easily understood by ourselves and, we believe, the public.

We agree with the guidelines proposed as they support and further clarify the revised standard. In particular, the specific definition of all dental professionals is reassuring as we are often asked ‘what do we do?’

The list of skills relating to extension of scope of practice outlined in the DBA’s guidelines is beneficial for understanding the requirements needed to extend our scope of practice. This list eliminates the uncertainty surrounding what an appropriate CPD course needs to offer to legitimately extend our current scope of practice.

Finally, the revised standard and accompanying guidelines appear to have considered the public’s oral health and safety. The suggested changes do not negatively effect the public’s safety in any way; but enhance it. This is enhanced by more accurately reflecting working relationships between members of the dental team.

Further, we urge the board to consider the removal of the sentence stating OHT’s, DT’s and DH’s are not independent practitioners. We do not believe removing this statement will change the intent of the document. But rather, it will remove patient’s confusion over who is the responsible practitioner for the treatment provided by OHT’s, DT’s and DH’s. This way, the public will view OHT’s, DT’s and DH’s as practitioners who are fully qualified to perform duties within our scope of practice.

In conclusion, the accompanying signatures reflect a body of future Oral Health Therapists who support the reviewed changes in the scope of practice. We believe these changes empower the public by firstly, providing a more comprehensive definition of the scope of practice of different dental practitioners, and secondly, by outlining the professional relationships of these dental practitioners. We particularly support the removal of the term ‘supervision’ and agree that a ‘structured professional relationship’ better describes the relationship between Oral Health Therapists and Dental Officers. We urge the board to remove the sentence stating OHT’s, DT’s and DH’s are not independent practitioners.

Student's Name	Electronic Signature
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