

Response to the Consultation for the Proposed Oral Health Therapy Scope of Practice

Name	Angela Benn
Email:	[REDACTED]
Interest in topic	Specialist Dental Public Health; Private general dental practitioner
Question 1: Proposed changes to scope of practice for Oral Health Therapy Scope?	Agree
Question 2: Proposed consultative professional relationship without the need for a signed agreement?	<p>Disagree.</p> <p>Given that council have decided to require that an oral health therapist must have a consultative professional relationship in order to practice. The proposed consultative professional relationship needs to be supported and formalised by a written signed agreement such as a memorandum of understanding.</p> <p>This agreement should be underpinned by the 3 and half pages of detailed guidelines (attachment 2) which the council has seen fit to draw up and the records kept by both oral health therapist and dentist who have a consultative relationship.</p> <p>A memorandum of understanding would provide the therapist with the means to verify to council or any other relevant body that they have fulfilled the requirements for registration. Additionally, there is protection for the dentist and therapist (if there is a written document which formalises the agreement to be in a consultative professional relationship) by clarifying matters such as what constitutes "timely" advice, communication channels etc</p> <p>Such a memorandum of understanding will in no way impinge on the ability of the therapist to practise independently within the scopes of oral health therapy. Instead will enable and enhance the co-ordination of joint care for a patient.</p>
Question 3: Orthodontic duties moved from direct supervision?	Agree.

<p>Question 4:</p> <p>End-date to oral health programmes for the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice?</p>	<p>Agree.</p>
<p>Question 5:</p> <p>Proposed competency standards for oral health therapists?</p>	<p>Partially agree</p> <p>There needs to be an addition within in the list of competencies requiring a written agreement with the dentist or dentists with whom the therapist has a consultative professional relationship.</p>
<p>Question 6</p> <p>Proposed registration transition?</p>	<p>Disagree</p> <p>Recency of practice is a concern for the early oral health graduates as they have possibly been working solely as a therapist or a hygienist. All oral health graduates should be required to prove recency of practice in order to transition across and register as an oral health therapist.</p>

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