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Sent: Thursday, 22 June 2017 10:37 a.m.

To: Consultations <Consultations@DCNZ.org.nz>

Subject: Personal response to the: Professional Boundaries Practice Standard Consultation

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Professional Boundaries Practice Standard Consultation

Consultation Questions

Q1. Do you agree/disagree with the draft professional boundaries practice standard? If you disagree, please detail why.

Disagree: I feel the standards are not clear enough and may place increased pressure on clinics to have extra staff to allow a hygienist to have a third party in the room. This would incur more cost at a time in our profession where people are already feeling the pinch and questioning cost of treatments.

The restrains or guidelines regarding treating family and friends dismiss the clinician's professional standard of conduct in that as clinicians we should treat all patients with the same standard of care that it is irrelevant what their relationship is to the clinician. It could be very hard having this type or restriction in place when it comes to small towns as you tend to know most people in a small town and have some form of relationship with them.

Q2. Does any element of the draft professional boundaries practice standard require clarification or further guidance? Please explain.

More detail is required in terms of how they see this being implemented on a practical level and details of exceptions that can be made where the standards cannot be achieved fully

Q3. Are there areas you consider to be important that have not been covered in the draft professional boundaries practice standard?

Yes Considerations made for small towns and rural clinics where there may be staffing shortages and the relationships are more established between patients and clinicians.

Q4. Do you have any further comments on the proposed professional boundaries practice standard?

I do question where the need to have such tight standards has come from; have there been many cases brought to light that have drawn the conclusion that if we had tighter standards the event would not have taken place, that the consequences of such tight standards would generate greater benefits outweighing the consequences.

Kind regards

Rebecca Woledge