



Dental & Oral Health Therapist Association of Queensland Inc.

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Administrative Officer
Health Workforce Study
Productivity Commission
P.O. Box 80
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Re: Australia's Health Workforce – Productivity Commission Position Paper

Dear Madam/Sir,

The executive of the Dental and Oral Health Therapist Association of Queensland (DOHTAQ) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Productivity Commission's Position Paper on Australia's Health Workforce.

Dental and oral health plays a large role in overall general health of an individual, however is very often treated as a separate entity rather than as part of the whole and it is with this in mind that we would hope that in wording such statements as (draft proposal 5.2) '*The Australian Health Ministers' Conference should establish an advisory health workforce education and training council...*' that this be inclusive of oral health.

The DOHTAQ executive particularly liked the Position Paper's *Systemic Factors* on pages XXVII to XXVIII as they are very relevant to dentistry.

Also relevant are the *Supporting Changes to Registration Arrangements* on pages XLV to XLVI especially paragraph 2, '*A range of concerns...*' and paragraph 4, '*More broadly...*'

DOHTAQ agree with paragraph 3 on page LI '*To allow the Government...*' regarding lower rebates as this has great applicability to dentistry.

DOHTAQ is supportive of a national approach to the assessment of overseas trained health professionals in draft proposal 6.2; a formal regulatory framework for task delegation in draft proposal 7.3 and lower rates of rebates in draft proposal 8.2.

The DOHTAQ executive thanks the Commission for the opportunity to comment on this important paper.

Yours sincerely,
Helen Field
Secretary
14 November 2005