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In the dental profession, the **Dental Council of New Zealand** recognises **Dental Therapists (DT)** and **Dental Hygienists (DH)** who have trained and are registered in the **USA, Canada and the UK**. However, no Dental Board does so in Australia.

It has then been the practice for many years for the Dental Boards to recommend that overseas trained and registered DTs and DHs from the USA, Canada and the UK, seek registration in **New Zealand** and then, through **TTMR**, then seek registration as a DT or DH in Australia.

The **Australian Dental Council** has no mechanism to assess overseas trained DTs and DHs from any country. They do, however, have a mechanism to assess overseas trained dentists.

Moreover, the Dental Boards in Australia recognise overseas trained and registered **dentists** from the UK and Ireland but do not do so for overseas trained and registered DTs and DHs from the UK and Ireland. There is an anomaly here where mechanisms exist for the recognition and registration of overseas trained dentists but not overseas trained dental therapists and dental hygienists.

The **Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapist Association (ADOHTA)** has written to the **Australian Dental Council** as well as to the **President and Registrars of Dental Boards of Australia and New Zealand** to ask for the recognition of UK trained (in General Dental Council accredited programs) and registered DTs and DHs. ADOHTA has also asked for an assessment process to be developed and administered by the Australian Dental Council for overseas trained DTs and DHs. Unfortunately, after four (4) years, there have been no developments at all in terms of recognition and/or assessment of overseas trained and registered DTs and DHs in Australia.

Without **TTMR**, it would be very difficult for overseas trained and registered Dental Therapists and Dental Hygienists to register and work in Australia. However, it is costly and cumbersome for overseas trained DTs and DHs to be assessed and registered via New Zealand when overseas trained and registered dentists can be assessed and registered directly in Australia.

A mechanism for assessment and registration of overseas trained Dental Therapists and Dental Hygienists should be developed and administered in **Australia**.

Ms Leonie M. Short RDT

Senior Lecturer in Oral Health Therapy

Program Convenor – Oral Health Therapy

School of Dentistry and Oral Health

Griffith Health