



Professor Ward Massey  
Head of School  
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08 November 2010

Dear Professor Massey

**RE: Griffith Bachelor of Oral Health (Oral Health Therapy) course**

I am writing to you in my capacity as the National Convenor of the Oral Health Special Interest Group (OHSIG) of the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA).

The PHAA and its OHSIG have long been active advocates for improving oral health in Australia; and in that capacity we urge and encourage you and your staff to do all you can to retain your School's Bachelor of Oral Health in Oral Health Therapy course.

The OHSIG recently held a workshop in Adelaide 'AUSTRALIA'S ESSENTIAL ORAL HEALTH CARE REFORM – GETTING IT DONE' at which participants were very disappointed to learn of Griffith University's plan, as we understood it, to discontinue the Bachelor of Oral Health in Oral Health Therapy. The PHAA's Oral Health Policy emphasises the need "to develop a more flexible and multi-skilled oral health workforce" and notes that "the supply shortage of oral health practitioners is being partially addressed with the expansion of oral health training in regional universities". Furthermore, we understand that like all states and territories, Queensland is in dire need of more oral health therapists; and that if your School ceases its course then UQ will be the only BOH course provider in your state. This surely is most unfortunate for many would-be BOH students in your region and state while also creating a major concern for the public and the government, one that we envisage would offer you and your School considerable leverage.

We are most concerned that the implications of this decision will be significant, not only for workforce capacity and population oral health in Queensland but also in Australia generally. Therefore the PHAA and the OHSIG would be pleased to provide you with political support for retaining the course and urge you again to consider the decision carefully in terms of Queensland and Australia's long term need.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Simmons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Dr Bruce Simmons  
National Convenor of OHSIG and PHAA Board Member