

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT
ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE
MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
DENTISTS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1979

No. 31 of 1979

The Dentists Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 1979 amends the Dentists Registration Ordinance 1931 to give the Dental Board of the Australian Capital Territory the power to register and to control the conduct of dental assistants and dental hygienists.

Prior to the making of the amending Ordinance the Dentists Registration Ordinance did not expressly provide for these dental auxiliaries to perform preventative dental services which could have meant that their employment by dentists could have been held to be unlawful in terms of the Ordinance.

The amending Ordinance overcomes this problem by introducing registration procedures in line with those applying to dentists, by setting out minimum qualifications for registration and by specifying and limiting the particular dental procedures that dental assistants and hygienists may carry out. The amendments also provide that the specified procedures can only be performed under the direction and control of a registered dentist who will be responsible at all times for ensuring, by examination, that the procedures are carried out satisfactorily. Consequently dental assistants and hygienists have no right to practise in their own name.

2.

The traditional dental chairside assistant is not affected by this amendment and will be able to continue being employed by dentists.

The Dentists Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 1979 was agreed to by the former Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly on 6 March 1979.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.