

DENTAL PROSTHETISTS AMENDMENT BILL 2003
(E252)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Introduced by Mr Trenorden, MLA)

Clause 1 Short Title

Provides for the Act to be cited as the *Dental Prosthetists Amendment Act 2003*.

Clause 2 Commencement

This clause provides for this Act to come into operation on the day on which it receives Royal Assent.

Clause 3 Principal Act

This clause provides that the amendments in this Act are to the *Dental Prosthetists Act 1985*.

Clause 4 Section 3 amended

Section 3(1) is amended in the definition of “full artificial denture” by deleting “full” and “all of the”.

The purpose of this amendment is to enable dental prosthetists to construct and fit partial dentures. The definition currently prohibits dental prosthetist from fitting and constructing partial dentures because of a view held at the time the Act was drafted that dental prosthetists were not adequately trained to construct and fit partial dentures. Training requirements have now improved immensely and the restriction is no longer justified. All licensed Prosthetists now have to have prescribed qualifications endorsed by the Dental Prosthetists Advisory Committee.

A June 2001 review of the Western Australian Practitioner Legislation prepared by the Health Department also recommended that Dental Prosthetists be permitted to construct and fit partial dentures providing the practitioner meets specific training requirements established by the Board. The Minister for Health supported this position at the time.

Western Australia is the only remaining State that still restricts dental prosthetists from constructing and fitting partial dentures.

Section 3(3) is amended in paragraph (a) by deleting “full” and in paragraph (b) by deleting “full”. As with amendments to Section 3(1) the purpose of these amendments is to remove the restriction placed on dental prosthetists that currently prevents them from constructing and fitting partial dentures.

Section 3(3) is also amended by deleting “but the fitting or inserting of an artificial denture or mouthguard shall not be taken to include any adjustment or alteration to the natural teeth or any tissue of the mouth”.

Of a consequence of allowing Dental Prosthetists to fit partial dentures, it is necessary to delete this sentence because when fitting a partial denture there may be a requirement in some circumstances to put a clamp or hinge on the natural tooth.

Clause 5 Section 18 amended

Section 18(2) is repealed.

This section was originally inserted to ensure that any person practicing as a Dental Prosthetist was adequately qualified. With the development of the profession in Western Australia this Section is now irrelevant and in any event is satisfied by the requirements placed on dental prosthetists in Sections 17 and 18 of the Act. Section 17 requires a person to apply for a licence to practice as a dental prosthetist and Section 18 sets out the character and educational requirements to be considered by the Commissioner before granting a licence.

Section 18(2) is therefore no longer relevant and can be repealed.

Clause 6 Section 19 amended

Section 19 is amended by deleting “full”. As with amendments to Section 3(1) and Section 3(3) the purpose of this amendment is to remove the restriction placed on dental prosthetists that currently prevents them from constructing and fitting partial dentures.

