

## Emerging Health Policy Research Conference 2018 Abstract Submission

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### **Manuscript Type**

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### **Biography**

I am a dentist turned public health professional (BDS, MPH) and have worked in both India and Australia. I am currently doing my PhD as a collaboration between Faculty of Dentistry and Menzies Centre for Health Policy, University of Sydney, blending my knowledge of dentistry and experience in the field of health policy.

### **Title**

Conceptualizing oral health care systems for comparative analysis – public, private and statutory

### **Keywords**

Oral health systems, Oral health policy, policy analysis, frameworks, complexity, complex health systems

## **Abstract**

**Background:** The Global Burden of Disease Study 2010 put the worldwide figure at 15 million disability adjusted life years due to oral health disorders considerably varying across countries. Epidemiological factors like Socio-demographics, diets, age and oral hygiene habits are known for the most common oral diseases. However, little is known about the health system factors and its influence on oral health outcomes. Whilst there is ample evidence on comparative health system functioning and its outcome, the oral health tributary of it needs to be revealed.

**Aim:** The aim of this research study is to compare oral health care system in three different health care systems, one private (Australia), one statutory (Germany) and one public (United Kingdom).

**Methodology:** This paper proposes a methodological framework as first step in the research study. In developing the framework, we take the WHO health systems building blocks as a starting point and build it on by incorporating complexities and institutions. The resulting framework will allow comparison of health systems along three broad planes, First, core system elements describing how the system functions; second, connections to determine level of complexity and links to oral health outcomes; and third drivers, to understanding change and continuity in the system exploring institutions. Both quantitative and qualitative methods can be applied to the framework to understand, relate, compare and interpret distinct oral health systems.

**Policy Implication:** This framework will allow researchers to explore complex interaction between the system level factors and the outcome in the form of policy processes. These policy processes will help policy makers draw out common as well as unique mechanistic explanations providing preconditions for the success or failure of health care policies and reforms.

