

Submission for proposed Oral Health Therapy Scope of Practice

I would like to congratulate the Dental Council in the way in which they have consulted and engaged Oral Health Practitioners in regards to the above proposal.

Whilst I agree with the majority of the proposed changes to the OHT scope of practice consultation document and understand the reasons for the changes, I would like to raise a few points:

1. I believe that the N.Z public and dentist's employing staff will be even confused as to what an OHT, Dental Therapist, Hygienist, Orthodontic Auxiliary actually do.
2. A culture of separatism and alienation could develop between disciplines who trained before 2009 and the degree graduates. Previously Health Department Certificates, Diplomas and degrees were regarded in an equal manner and experience was recognised. For example, with the impending changes a Dental Therapist who has been out of the workforce for two years may have no chance of working in his/her discipline because an OHT is considered more valuable to a service or practice, therefore making her/his discipline redundant or obsolete.
3. I believe that an OHT's must continue to practice in both Dental Therapy and Hygiene and that if they choose to practice in only one discipline then they can only call them self a Dental Therapist, Dental Hygienist or Orthodontic Auxiliary.

Thank you for considering my submission. I look forward to hearing the update in regards to this proposal in the near future.

Kind Regards



Trish Delamore

Registered Dental Therapist