

**Response to the follow-up consultation on a proposed oral health therapy scope of practice.**

**Q1:** No. We do not agree with these proposed changes. There is a lack of clarity in the consultation document regarding the competence of oral health graduates from both the University of Otago and Auckland University of Technology. The views of AUT towards their graduates' competencies in treating patients over the age of 18 are not discussed in the document to the same extent as that of Otago University. We do not see any evidence to suggest that complex lesions seen in the permanent dentition of a 17 year old would be managed any differently to the same complex lesions in the permanent dentition of a 19 year old. It is our view that the skill sets held by oral health therapists will be most effectively applied in practices and health bodies working in low decile/SES communities and predominantly Maori communities as does our practice. To limit their restorative practice, even though it would be under the prescription of a dental surgeon or dental specialist, to under 18 year olds, would severely limit their usefulness to such an employer, and their effectiveness in this context. Consequently we would urge the Council most strongly to reconsider this change.

**Q2:** Yes. We agree that while a consultative professional relationship between an oral health therapist and one, or more, dentists/dental specialists is essential, a signed agreement is not.

**Q3:** Yes. We agree that these orthodontic activities should be performed within the consultative professional relationship.

**Q4:** Yes. We agree with the proposal that oral health therapists need not register for the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice as this will be included in the oral health therapy scope of practice.

**Q5:** Yes we agree with the proposed competency standards for oral health therapists.

**Q6:** Yes we agree with the proposed registration transition for oral health graduates.

C M G Busfield, BOH 2015 (Otago)

J L Busfield, BDS 1982 (Otago); Dip Bus Stud (small business) 1995 (Massey)