

# Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

## Community Dental Service

27 May, 2016

Marie Warner  
Chief Executive  
Dental Council of New Zealand  
PO Box 10-448  
Wellington 6143

Dear Marie

### **Submission on follow-up consultation on a proposed oral health therapy scope of practice**

Q1: Do you agree with the proposed changes to the oral health therapy scope of practice? If not, please

explain.

- **Agree**

Q2: Do you agree with the proposed consultative professional relationship between an oral health therapist and one, or more, dentists/dental specialists, without the need for a signed agreement? If not, please

explain.

- **Agree**
- **We have signed agreements with our dental therapists which are poorly understood.**
- **DCNZ's proposal for a guideline for a consultative arrangement would provide a better framework.**
- **There is no mention of how this would apply to dental therapists – if the requirement for a signed agreement were not to be required for oral health therapists then the same should apply for dental therapists and hygienists.**
- **Definitions of the levels of supervision need to be spelt out in the scope of practice**

ref: 2016-05-27 oht scope 2nd consult submission.docx

Q3: Do you agree that the following orthodontic activities from the oral health therapy scope of practice be moved from direct clinical supervision to being performed within the consultative professional relationship?

- a. tracing cephalometric radiographs
- b. fabricating retainers and undertaking simple laboratory procedures of an orthodontic nature

If not, please explain.

- Agree
- On the basis that this is aimed at achieving an appropriate level of supervision.

Q4. Do you agree with the proposal to end-date the two oral health programmes as prescribed qualifications for the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice? Consequently, oral health graduates that register as an oral health therapist will be removed from the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice – if registered

- Agree
- The ortho auxiliary area is included in the OHT scope so separate registration no longer required.

Q5: Do you agree with the proposed competency standards for oral health therapists? If not, please explain.

- Partially agree
- The standards are detailed and we agree with those presented – but we would suggest another standard that relates to supporting the professional practice of colleagues, which includes the mentoring and/or supervision of junior colleagues is included.

Q6: Do you agree with the proposed registration transition for oral health graduates? If not, please explain.

- Agree
- The proposal is rational and takes into account individual assessment where recency of practice issues are involved.



Dr Martin Lee  
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Clinical Director  
Community Dental Service