

Good Afternoon

I wish to say it is a bad idea to increase the scope of practise for OHT to Adults. There are a number of reasons

- 1) They will need to refer to a dentist anyway if deep and a pulpitis is evident during surgery. This ensures that the patients treatment is slowed down, more likely to have to wait be in pain longer and cost more.
- 2) A lot of fillings these days are very deep or have fractures that involve gum tissue. How can you ensure you get a good seal in this situation? By using some form of gum surgery (Lasers etc). So how do they deal with that? A lot of the time this is not planned , so again how do the Pt deal with this, without the patient being disadvantaged?
- 3) The employment need of associate dentists will be less. Why employ 2 associate dentists when you can employ 1 OHT and 1 dentist that can cover the same scope as the two dentists for a lot lower cost!
- 4) Setup further competition in and industry that is hugely competitive anyway, you may get more OHT but you'll employ less dentists
- 5) What real advantage does increasing their scope give? The profession is coping well with the demand
- 6) Quality of the dentistry in NZ will go down as a less skilled workforce doing fillings
- 7) Dentists will have more errors to fix and more emergencies
- 8) To restore a tooth there are a myriad of options the patient needs to know about. How does the OHT offer all these options when there scope is limited only to fillings? Again the patient suffers with loss of time and more cost!