

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Page 2: Your demographics

Q1 Your details

Name

Lisa Bahho

Q2 Your submission is in the capacity as

dentist or dental specialist

Page 3: The proposal

Q3 Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to remove the 18-year age limit for restorative activities from the OHT scope of practice including: accredited, gazetted programmes allowing oral health therapists to perform restorative treatment on patients 18 years and older an exclusion, such as "Restorative treatment on patients 18 years and older", being placed on oral health therapists' scopes of practice until they complete an accredited adult restorative programme which will allow them to apply to have the exclusion removed (noting that the activities registered oral health therapists can currently perform within their scope of practice remain unchanged).

Strongly disagree

Page 4: Your support

Q4 Please describe why you support the proposal

Respondent skipped this question

Page 5: Your concerns

Q5 Please describe your specific concern/s with the proposal

1. Comprehensive dental care for adults requires much more in terms of diagnosis and treatment planning than simply the treatment of caries in isolation. Adults present with a wide range of complexities in terms of their medical and dental histories, particularly over time. Treatment of adults is much more challenging than simply treating dental caries. There are many additional physiological and psychological aspects to consider. Without any age restriction on the scope of Oral Health Therapists, these patients may be potentially placed at risk if there is any oversight in their care due to inadequate training and experience.

2. Concern about how the new scope of practice will be regulated without any clear definition of the extent of restorative care permissible to OHTs in the new scope.

3. Concern that the childhood caries rates in New Zealand are higher than in Australia and the UK. There is already a high demand for dental therapists to treat childhood caries in many communities, particularly rural communities. The workforce currently has no shortage of dentists to treat adults. The treatment of dental caries in children should be the primary concern for OHTs.

4. The inconsistency between dental therapy and OHT scopes of practice is an administrative issue and should not impact on providing safe dental care for the public.

Page 6: Details about OHT scope, qualifications and competencies

Q6 Do you have any specific feedback on the proposed amendments to the OHT scope of practice, prescribed qualifications or competencies as set out in appendices 1 & 2? **Yes**

Page 7: Specific comments on the proposal

Q7 Please provide us specific comments related to the OHT scope, qualifications and competencies.

It is not clearly defined whether the restorative activities include diagnosis and treatment of marginal (secondary) caries and root caries which are more complex to treat and more likely to result in further complications which may fall outside of the OHT scope.

Page 8: Anything else

Q8 Do you have any further comments on the proposal? **Yes**

Page 10: Last thoughts

Q9 Please provide us your feedback

There needs more research/ substantiated reasoning behind making changes where the result of the potential impact, and the extent of it, is unknown.
