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Page 2: Your demographics

Q1 Your details

Name	Nicholas Cutfield
Company/organisation	[Redacted]
City/town	[Redacted]
Email	[Redacted]

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
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Page 4: Your support

Q4 Please describe why you support the proposal	Respondent skipped this question
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Page 5: Your concerns

Consultation on the age limit for restorative activities in the oral health therapy scope of practice

Q5 Please describe your specific concern/s with the proposal

The public seeking treatments from lesser qualified Oral Health Therapists will likely be those who face financial barriers to routine dental care. These individuals present with some of the most challenging oral health needs and complex medical histories seen in general dental practice and require multi discipline treatment planning. Oral Health Therapists are not equipped with essential skills and knowledge to manage these individuals.

The current OHT workforce is struggling to manage the treatment need of children at present, the proposed changes will only further add to this problem.

My practice currently receives a lot of referrals from therapists to manage very basic restorative needs of local children. If these need to be referred I fail to see how expanding their scope is of sound reasoning.

I have grave concerns for the safety of the public being treated by an under trained workforce. The proposed changes will not relieve the unmet dental treatment need in NZ adults.

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.

Therapists are not trained to manage adult dental pulps during restorative activities. They can also only treatment plan basic restorative and periodontal needs without incorporating any endodontic, advanced occlusal concepts or surgical needs. I feel by having their scope limited they are going to recommend certain treatments within their scope which may not be the best management for the patient.

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

The proposed changes are a terrible idea. If therapists wish to treat adults may I encourage them to complete a Bachelor of Dental Surgery.
