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

Page 2: Your demographics	
Q1 Your details	
Name	Niluka Gabriel
City/town	
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

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Q5 Please describe your specific concern/s with the proposal

At the moment there is a great need in treating the children of New Zealand. The focus should be on providing care and treatment in the early stages and the prevention of dental disease - This workforce is already stretched with many children waiting for treatment.

I would be concerned in the ability to handle medically compromised patients and the complications that can occur. Many patients have complex dental issues as well.

Dentistry is expensive as there is no public funding for treatment. Having a new workforce will not change the cost of dentistry or make it more affordable.

There is no indication of supervision - would a OHT be able to work independently?

Treating an adult is not the same as treatment on a child. As a child (under 18) the treatment is often not complex - and there is a pathway of referral when there is a concern. An adult often with high dental need will require deep fillings, root treatment or extractions. If you are not prepared to be able to offer the options or complete treatment required- it is not in the best interest for the patient.

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?	No
Page 7: Specific comments on the proposal	
Q7 Please provide us specific comments related to the OHT scope, qualifications and competencies.	Respondent skipped this question
Page 8: Anything else	
Q8 Do you have any further comments on the proposal?	Νο
Page 10: Last thoughts	
Q9 Please provide us your feedback	Respondent skipped this question