

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Page 2: Your demographics

**Q1** Your details

Name	Dr Neil Croucher
Company/organisation	[REDACTED]
City/town	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]

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**Q2** Your submission is in the capacity as **dentist or dental specialist**

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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 agree**

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Page 4: Your support

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

### Q4 Please describe why you support the proposal

In my role as [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Oral Health Service I have worked closely with oral health therapists for the last 16 years. They are highly skilled clinicians who know their scope of practice and work competently within it. They are also very aware of when to seek advice and when to refer appropriately, especially when there is advice or care required that is beyond their experience, knowledge or scope of practice.

I have no doubts whatsoever that if the age limit was removed from the scope of practice of oral health therapists, they would and could work competently on adults, as long as:

- 1) they have had completed an appropriate adult course module (either as a postgraduate or within the framework of the undergraduate course).
- 2) They are part of a clinical team that includes a dentist or dental specialist, and have a functional and professional relationship with one or more of those dentists or dental specialists.

In the light of my comments so far I do not see these changes being of any additional risk to public safety. It will also allow exciting opportunities for the way oral health care could be delivered both in the public and private sector: potentially improving access to, and affordability of, oral health services in rural and urban areas.

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### Page 5: Your concerns

Q5 Please describe your specific concern/s with the proposal

Respondent skipped this question

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### 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**

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### 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

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### Page 8: Anything else

Q8 Do you have any further comments on the proposal?

Yes

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### Page 10: Last thoughts

Q9 Please provide us your feedback

I strongly commend this proposal. It will strengthen oral health clinical teams, provide opportunities to make oral health services more accessible and affordable, and further enhance the profession of oral health therapy here in NZ.