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Page 2: Your demographics

Q1 Your details

Name	David Wallbridge
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

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

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

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? **Yes**

Page 10: Last thoughts

Q9 Please provide us your feedback

The Fire in Notre Dame and our Teeth. A compelling case for prevention. The spectre of Notre Dame blaze, the pathos of the once proud spire now hanging limply from its charred skeleton. As New Zealanders we are able to empathise with the French having had our own Christchurch Cathedral crushed and broken by earthquake. Visitors and locals who have been inspired by these magnificent structures are left bereaved. Quickly, however, conversations turn to how such a tragedy could have been prevented. Could the Fireman have been alerted earlier? Could we have had bigger fire trucks with longer ladders? Stronger pumps to suck more water from the Seine? More firefighters, or better equipped ones? President Trump helpfully suggests Airborne Water Tankers – An idea quickly dismissed as too destructive. In contrast to the public debate, it is likely that the French workmen who had been restoring a section of the Notre Dame will also be musing upon how this tragedy could have been managed more effectively. I am sure at some point, long after the billionaire businessmen have pledged eye watering amounts of Euros, and politicians have made the restoration of the Notre Dame an exercise of national focus and unity, an insightful worker will suggest with a gallic shrug. "If only the boss had paid one of us to do a daily check after everyone had finished work. You know, just spend a couple of hours double checking that all the blow torches were fully extinguished, that no hot lead was quietly smouldering in an old beam, or worse still a cigarette butt was glowing in the rubbish skip. The concept that a gram of prevention is worth a kilogram of cure is not new, just easily overlooked. The same concerns are facing our Government, Dental Council and families. There is a fire raging in the teeth of our nation. Once proud smiles hollowed out and destroyed by decay. The firefighters have usually been called, however the delay in getting to the seat of blaze, means that the mouth structure is irreversibly damaged, often beyond repair. Currently the N.Z. Dental Council is considering extending the scope of the Dental Therapists, so that they can treat adults. The reason for this is that the size of the fire in our adult mouths has overwhelmed their owners. Essentially this is akin to increasing the number of firefighters after the Notre Dame has burned. Actually it is not just bringing in more firefighters it is bringing in more fire fighters who are not fully trained. Some are arguing that the government should fund and equip the existing fire fighters (Dentists) to do their jobs more efficiently, especially for those who are struggling financially to look after their teeth. Fortunately there is already a tried and true solution to the cause of this problem. If you take the time to speak to Dentists and Dental Therapists, ask them how much decay they have in their mouths? Or ask them how many fillings due to decay their children have? You will discover an intriguing fact: Almost nothing. The truth is that the children of Dentists and Dental Therapists have very little, if any decay, and it is not because they have vast amounts of treatment from their parents. It is because their parents control the sugar intake into their children's mouths. It is no coincidence that 4 of the top 10 selling items in NZ supermarkets are highly sugared/carbonated beverages. It is no coincidence that manufacturers add sugar to 74% of all packaged foods sold in supermarkets. Unlike the fire in Notre Dame which happened in one night the fire in our teeth has been on slow burn for a generation, and it is only recently the flames are starting to be noticed. Just as it took nearly 200 years to build the outline Notre Dame in the first place, and it will take many years to restore her, so the prevention of Dental Decay by addressing sugar intake in NZ will take time. Dietary patterns of the whole nation will not change overnight. Certainly a commitment to a time frame much longer than a 3 year cycle of government will be required. When the ashes have settled we are not trying to decide between big burly boys in fast red trucks and careful checking for hot embers or tell tale wisps of smoke. Both are necessary. The challenge is to put at least as much effort and resources into prevention as `cure`.
