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Page 2: Your demographics

**Q1** Your details

Name **Y Zhang**

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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 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

The current scope between therapists and dentists is extremely different. Simply increasing the OHT scope without in depth theoretical and practical training seems very illogical.

Sometimes performing even simple treatment on patients can become quite complex and without sufficient training in the undergraduate programme this increases the risk of the patient having a medical event.

Furthermore, a large amount of New Zealand children are already deprived of what should be standard accessible oral care due to a shortage of therapists, this will lead to neglect and increase the burden that is already stretched thin public health system long term.

The OHT programme is 2 years shorter than the Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree, this does not equip present therapists with a sufficient theoretical and practical background to perform same procedures as dentists do on a routine basis. We must make sure that all practitioners are fit to practice and competent to treat patients with the best standard of practice as the Dental Council highly expects from their dentists. This seems like it could compromise the quality of care we provide to our patients, causing extra stress, confusion for both practitioners and patients.

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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? **No**

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Page 10: Last thoughts

**Q9** Please provide us your feedback **Respondent skipped this question**

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