

I am opposed to the proposal to increase the age limit of the oral health therapy scope of practice.

I believe that the training and employment of oral therapists needs to continue to concentrate on the provision of oral health care for our youngest population.

The current scheme that is set up to maintain the oral health of the greater population of New Zealand children is already under stress, and is failing to keep up with regular examinations, the provision of preventative care and restorative treatment for this population group.

If the Dental Council is preferring to allow a rise in the age limit for restorative activities of oral health therapists, I would like to address the Dental Council's role of overseeing competency.

I would want to see clinicians who would like to provide limited treatment for adults after a three year course, pass the Otago University Dental School's year three clinical and cariology module, and the professional development module.

This is so that the adult population that will be receiving care from the clinician who has had limited training, can be assured that the clinician is able to work to the same level as if they had the work provided by a dentist.

Thank you for your time in reading this submission.

Regards  
Susan Stewart