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



Page 2: Your demographics

Q1 Your details

Sarah Brocherie Name Company/organisation City/town Email

Q2 Your submission is in the capacity as

oral health therapist

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

Page 4: Your support

Q4 Please describe why you support the proposal

Approximately 50% of adults do not attend the dentist; mainly due to finances. If Oral Health Therapists receive adequate training I don't see how this would be anything but successful at reducing decay rates nationwide. Approval of the adult scope would make dentistry more accessible to those that need it the most. It would also upskill Oral Health Therapists which can only be seen as a positive.

Page 5: Your concerns

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Q5 Please describe your specific concern/s with the proposal

Respondent skipped this question

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?

Page 7: Specific comments on the proposal

Q7 Please provide us specific comments related to the OHT scope, qualifications and competencies.

I believe in order for this proposal to be successful/reduce complications there needs to be set framework and adequate thorough training. Preferably mentored by dentists. I think Oral Health Therapists should be required to have worked a certain amount of years in dental therapy before gaining acceptance of this scope. This would reduce Oral Health Therapists who have only ever worked in hygiene since graduating from practising on adults with no prior experience in restorative work. There needs to be thorough training in polypharmacy and support from dentists

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 anatomy of permanent teeth do not alter solely due to age. There shouldn't be an age restriction on our restorative work.