



Page 2: Your demographics

Q1 Your details

Name	Emilee
Company/organisation	[Redacted]
City/town	[Redacted]
Email	[Redacted]

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

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

Q4 Please describe why you support the proposal

Thank you for this opportunity to provide a submission on the age limit for restorative activities in the oral health therapy scope of practice.

I am in full support of this proposal. There is a plethora of evidence describing the unmet need of dental care and poor dental health in New Zealand. I think having more practitioners able to offer dentistry to a wider subset of the population can only be a good thing. This will allow for families to access care together and hopefully will push for a change in the SDS system which in itself is ineffective and needs to be less siloed in its approach of a dental service provision. This may in turn hopefully allow more political pressure to reform our dental service in its entirety (in time) to address need as the current system is clearly not working. The monopoly that dentists have on adult care has failed to provide increased access for the population, and some more competition in the market I believe will be a good thing.

There is very little difference in how the current scope allows for the provision of examinations, diagnosis and restorative treatment for permanent molars on a 17yr old, but when they turn 18, 19, 20 etc we suddenly are incapable. I'm glad to see the DCNZ has taken initiative on this matter and has recognised the arcane and irrational aspect of this criteria. Providing a chance to undertake an accredited program for OHTs to upskill in to the adult scope is also worthwhile, although I hope that this becomes absorbed into the OHT programs in the future.

I don't believe that there should be any valid argument against removing the age limit on restorative activities. This has been successful in other countries, and is very likely to be successful in New Zealand. If we as oral health practitioners are clear in a united objective to improve the oral health for all New Zealanders this proposal is an absolute no-brainer. I would suggest that instead of opposition to this proposal, dentists in their current capacity should start strategising how they will best adapt to this change and look forward to the future with a mindset on collaborative care.

Page 5: Your concerns

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? **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?

No

Page 10: Last thoughts

Q9 Please provide us your feedback

Respondent skipped this question
