

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Page 2: Your demographics

Q1 Your details

Name

Jumana

City/town

[Redacted]

Email

[Redacted]

Q2 Your submission is in the capacity as

Other (please specify):
Student

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

As an Oral Health student myself, it is clear that many of those making submissions do not fully understand the scope of our education. Anyone who pursues a Bachelor of Oral Health gains a comprehensive understanding of restorative care on permanent teeth, such as those of 17-year-old patients. There is no practicable difference between the teeth of someone aged 17 years and 364 days and someone aged 18 years or beyond. The age restriction is completely arbitrary, and is based on an outdated understanding of the roles and skills of oral health therapists.

We study pharmacology, dental materials, dental anatomy, and more. We know the 'what ifs' that arise from procedures going unexpectedly wrong, and we learn all the necessary skills for restorative work on teeth of any age.

Oral health therapists are not capable of doing root canals, complex restorations on permanent teeth, or other highly advanced operations. These are all logical restrictions to have, and we have no interest in trying to take these roles away from dentists. We are not trying to 'steal jobs', or 'ruin the prestige of the dental profession'. We are simply trying to make dental care more accessible and affordable for all New Zealanders.

This proposal would not be revolutionary. It is merely removing an arbitrary restriction, a restriction which is quite frankly damaging to the public health of this country. New Zealanders living on limited or fixed incomes would greatly benefit from this change, as it would lower the price of dental care, without compromising quality in the least.

Furthermore, this change would actually help dentists, as their valuable time would be freed up for more complicated restorations, the kind oral health therapists are not qualified to do. These positive changes can be seen in the many other countries which have removed the age limit on restorative activities.

From the language and attitude presented in many submissions, I truly believe that a significant number of people disagreeing with this change are simply being selfish, thinking of how this could affect them personally. These people must understand that this change is for the good of the public, and the good of the public by far outweighs any petty self-interest.

I sincerely hope the Dental Council makes the right choice, to expand the oral health therapy scope of practice, for the good of all New Zealanders.

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
