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Page 2: Your demographics

Q1 Your details

Name	Maggie Li
Company/organisation	[Redacted]
City/town	[Redacted]
Email	[Redacted]

Q2 Your submission is in the capacity as	Other (please specify):
	BOH
	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
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Page 4: Your support

Q4 Please describe why you support the proposal

The vast majority that are disagreeing with this proposal are prejudice and doing so not for the benefit of the health of the public but for their own personal gain. In retrospect it should be about providing effective care and treatment for individuals who require it the most. After all, happy healthy people, become beneficial for economic and developmental growth of the country. The majority of the opposition seem to believe that BOH students who will graduate as Oral health therapists are incompetent to treat adults. This is a preposterous accusation. Within the Bachelor of Oral Health scope, Oral Health Therapists restore permanent teeth, and provide treatment to children and adolescents until the age of 18. However what does being before or after 18 change? Somehow as someone turns 18 like Cinderella when the clock strikes 12 we lose the “ability” and “competency” to treat them. The age restriction is completely arbitrary, it is not the age restriction that is the problem but the modification of the kind of treatment and restorations that can be provided. BOH comprehensively understand restorative care, and the programme covers all aspects of dentistry, in many aspects BOH students are more knowledgeable and skilled. Our lovely tutors ensure we are efficient and equipped with the adequate skills we need to provide the best care possible.

Oral health therapists study pharmacology, dental materials, dental anatomy, and more, we definitely have the skill and knowledge to make informed decisions and provide safe, and proper treatment. The public are in safe hands we have the skills, the knowledge, the potential risks and complications that may arise from dental procedures, and know to refer accordingly. More patients prefer to be seen by an Oral health therapists instead of a dentist as they are more invested in the patient. Oral health therapists are taught and trained with the golden motto “to treat the patient not the disease” it is all for the benefit of the patient however dentists are more focused on getting in the restoration and the reward afterwards. Clearly Oral health therapists have the ability so what is preventing this great movement. There are people opposing this movement because BOH are simply not BDS what does a measly title do? It’s a title, anyone can gain and be stripped of a title, shouldn’t the individual be assessed by their ability and not by their degree. I believe that removing the age limitation would be immensely beneficial for patients especially those from Low Social Economic background. Oral Health therapists are willing to provide care and support to low social economic areas and areas of poverty however ask any dentist if they would be willing to go there for no monetary gain I doubt there will be many takers of this position. The ratio between health professional and patients requiring treatment is drastically skewed there is a higher demand for quality dental treatment however not enough are trained in the profession. Oral Health therapists will be able to provide treatment for simple procedures reducing the load from dentists who only want to see serious conditions. That is all that this proposal is trying to do, we are trying to make dental care more accessible and affordable for all New Zealanders. Quite frankly the traditional views need to change this is the 21st century Oral health therapists should not be ostracised or marginalised by those that believe they are more superior (dentists) it has its own scope it will not be “stealing” jobs or positions from the entitled dentists, everything that Oral Health therapists do will be within their scope regardless of the age restriction. Lifting the age restriction will help lessen the weight and demand for quality dental treatment, if anything Oral health therapists are doing the country a favour.

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
