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



Page 2: Your demographics

## Q1 Your details

Company/organisation
City/town
Email

Q2 Your submission is in the capacity as

Other (please specify):
Bachelor of Oral Health 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

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

## Q4 Please describe why you support the proposal

I agree with the proposal to remove the 18-year-old age limit for restorative activities from the OHT scope of practice. OHT's are already equipped with the relevant skills to treat patients of all ages. We have received education and training in dental materials, dental morphology and performing restorative work safely in both primary and permanent dentitions. In addition to restorative training, we undertake pharmacology papers as well as treating hygiene patients who often have complex medical histories and polypharmacy.

There is currently already a scope of practice for adult care for dental therapists, but OHT's cannot register in this scope of practice as we are no longer registering in dental therapy. As a result, even if we were to complete the additional training, we would still be unable to perform restorative treatment on adults. In order to reduce concerns of incompetency, I support having an exclusion placed on all oral health therapists' scope of practice until they have completed an accredited adult restorative course to allow the exclusion to be removed.

There are already sanctions in place for any unprofessional practice that deviates from expected standards. I believe that OHT's can reliably determine the boundaries of our own scope of practice and act accordingly. By removing the 18-year-old age limit for restorative work and allowing us to continue the restorative work that is already within our scope of practice we could contribute further in our part in trying to meet the oral health needs of New Zealand's ageing population. I do not see any difference between tooth structure at age 18 years or 18 years and one day.

## 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