

[Redacted]

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Page 2: Your demographics

Q1 Your details

Name **Saloni**

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

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 strongly agree with the proposal to remove the age restriction for restorative care. OHTs are qualified to and already provide restorative care on both permanent and primary teeth up till the age of 18. There is no difference in the anatomy and tooth morphology of a permanent tooth that belongs to 17 year old to that of a 25 year old. As oral health therapists work on adults as part of our hygiene scope, we are familiar with how to tackle patients with comprehensive medical histories. Throughout our degree, we study pharmacology, microbiology, anatomy and the biochemistry of fluoride interaction with the teeth, therefore enabling us to have the appropriate knowledge to go forward with certain restorative procedures on both adults and children, while ensuring a high standard of public safety.

After reading the submissions received thus far it is clear that many individuals are unaware of the role and skills of OHTs. OHTs have no interest in doing complex restorative treatments such as root canals. We are very well aware of our scope of practice and understand the appropriate times of referral.

By removing this restriction, the progression of carious lesions can be reduced, as there will be improved access, shorter waiting lists, and less time lost waiting for referrals. Ultimately improving many New Zealander's oral health. Dental caries and periodontal disease are the most prevalent diseases within this country, and I for one would love to see a significant reduction in these numbers. Removal of the age restriction will increase the number of dental professionals able to manage cases of dental caries and overtime help to reduce the prevalence.

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