

Registration pathway consultation

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Hi there,

I would like to make a submission regarding the consultation of registration pathways for overseas practitioners.

I have concerns of overseas trained dentists being able to register as OHT's/Hygienists, if they do not meet the requirements for dentistry.

I feel that this has the potential for already practicing OHT's/Hygienists/Therapists (particularly New Zealand trained) to feel that the their study is undermined.

I also feel that it may put the public at risk, as patients may prefer to have a hygiene appointment with someone who has trained as a dentist, but working as a hygienist, but in reality they might not be getting the level of care they require.

Periodontal disease treatment and management is complex, and hygienists/OHT's are specialised in their skill set and scope to treat and manage this. I'm not implying that this is the case for all dentists, however, their skill set is much broader, and I worry that their practical skills may be sub par for what is required in practice.

Thanks,  
Louise