

From: Hayley Bichan
Sent: Wednesday, 8 November 2023 1:57 PM
To: Consultations
Subject: Feedback on budget and fees

Hi,

I am submitting my feedback on the proposed budget and fees. As a dental therapist I believe the profession is limited by the DCNZ and the legislation in place in NZ as far as career progression and potential earning opportunities. I believe it is unfair that dental therapist APC fees are as high as they are only slightly lower than dentist and dental specialists (with a lot more salary and career progression) for another successive year. I do see they have dropped slightly but not enough in my mind. Not only is this unfair to dental therapist that have to pay their own fees it is absolutely unacceptable that the DCNZ thinks it is appropriate to continue to allow Te Whatu Ora to pay the bulk of these fees at such a high rate when healthcare is already struggling for enough funding throughout the country. I know the response is that the pool of dental therapists is growing smaller every year but there is definitely a way this issue could be resolved, how is it any different from combining dentists with dental specialists? Kind of a flawed argument don't you think? I think a solution needs to be presented by the DCNZ as the pool of dental therapists is only going to get smaller each year, especially when they have been such a long standing and important part of NZ history.

Thanks,
Hayley

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