

Dear Dental Council,

We fully endorse the NZDA submissions on Oral Health Therapy Scope of Practice.

We have grave concerns about the proposed changes.

In Christchurch the therapists are using inappropriate restorative materials to restore the deciduous and permanent dentition - glass ionomer cements are the only materials used.

Our observations are that they have very limited clinical skills and diagnostic ability.

The process of informed consent is not adhered to or satisfactory.

Therefore we feel that therapists :

1. should not be treating 13-18 year olds as this group can be challenging from a clinical and behavioural perspective.
2. should not be treating adults at all
3. should be under the direct supervision of a dentist or specialist when treating children

We are also concerned that if the proposed scope is open to abuse by non ethical dentists and corporates.

If this scope is approved the New Zealand children and adults will be severely disadvantaged clinically and financially.

Yours faithfully,

Anne Bush

 BDS.

Tony Bush

 BDS.