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Page 2: Your demographics

Q1 Your details

Name	Joo Leem
City/town	[Redacted]
Email	[Redacted]

Q2 Your submission is in the capacity as **dentist or dental specialist**

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 disagree
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Page 4: Your support

Q4 Please describe why you support the proposal	Respondent skipped this question
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Page 5: Your concerns

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

Q5 Please describe your specific concern/s with the proposal

I am opposed to the idea of increasing the scope for the therapists as I do not think this is where we need to place our funding and focus to meet the oral health needs of New Zealanders. I completely agree that something needs to be done to address this issue but increasing scope does not seem like the most logical idea to address this problem we have. Patients of great need such as those of lower socio economic groups and the elderly usually do not require basic treatment needs but require complex treatment and many are medically complex patients. I don't see how allowing therapists to do basic fillings are going to help address these patient's needs. The specialty of Special care dentistry requires 3 additional years of training after 5 years of dentistry- but we now thinking of allowing the therapists to take on this role to treat the elderly?

To address our oral health problem I feel that we need to improve access to the already well equipped existing dental workforce by other means such as removing GST from dental work. Due to overhead costs, I doubt that the treatment provided by therapists can be much lower than a 15% decrease in current costs.

We also need to look at the future of New Zealanders by looking at prevention and this is by putting focus on children. Therapists who are of great importance to this prevention model are currently poorly paid despite having to work on some of our most vulnerable and sometimes difficult to treat members of the population. There seems to be little incentive for the therapists to stay in this role and hence many of these dual trained therapists are working privately as hygienists to support their living. I can see this altered scope worsening this problem further as therapists are incentivised to step away further from this prevention role in both hygiene and therapy to treating adult patients where they are likely to earn more.

In summary, I completely disagree with the idea of increasing scope as this is a poor way to direct funds in an attempt to address the current problem we have. It will instead worsen another existing problem- the oral health of New Zealand children. We instead need to look at ways of making the therapy role more attractive by paying therapists a decent wage, and we need to look at other means of making dentistry more accessible for adult patients by looking at GST and government subsidies.

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**