

From: Jen Abraham
Sent: Friday, 14 October 2022 1:35 PM
To: Consultations
Subject: Dental therapist APC fees

To Whom it May Concern

I am extremely concerned at the proposed levies for Dental Therapists being proposed. I note we are low in numbers of registered dental therapists, we are highly likely to be extremely low on the disciplinary action required as most work for government organisations and follow very strict guidelines, policies and procedures. We are a very conscientious, professional bunch of oral health professionals, Not to mention in the past we have been one of the most audited, scrutinised, examined workforce in the dental field, since the NZ school dental nurse came into being! Yet the disciplinary levy is the highest out of all the professions and our APC fee sky high? Is there a large number of disciplinary actions occurring annually with the dental therapists? Is this the reason for the fee hike? We earn significantly less than a dentist, yet their fee is not much more than ours? There is approximately 2500 in the workforce compared to the 350 dental therapists? I have recent returned to NZ after living and practicing in Western Australia for the past nine years, my annual APC Fee there was approximately \$350 pa. I believe there's just shy of 600 therapists/oral health therapists practicing in the State. Why is there such a huge difference in fees ??

Regards

Jennifer Abraham
(Registered Dental Therapist)