

## Scope of practice for oral health therapy

The practice of oral health therapy is the provision of oral health assessment, diagnosis, management, treatment and prevention of any disease, disorder or condition of the orofacial complex and associated structures in accordance with an oral health therapist's approved education, training, experience and competence.

Oral health education, disease prevention and oral health promotion for individuals and communities are core activities, aimed at achieving and maintaining oral health as an integral part of general health.

The scope of practice encompasses the oral health therapist competencies.

Practice in this context goes wider than clinical oral health therapy practice to include teaching, research, and management, given that such roles influence clinical practice and public safety. Areas of oral health therapy practice which were not included in a practitioner's training should not be undertaken unless the practitioner has completed appropriate training and practises to the standards required by the Standards Framework for Oral Health Practitioners.

## Prescribed qualifications for the scope of practice for oral health therapy

### New Zealand

- University of Otago Bachelor of Oral Health<sup>1</sup> and a Dental Council New Zealand accredited Adult restorative programme
- Auckland University of Technology Bachelor of Health Science in Oral Health<sup>2</sup> and a Dental Council New Zealand accredited Adult restorative programme.

### Australia

- Dental Board of Australia-approved programmes that allow graduates registration in the Oral Health Therapist Scope of Practice in Australia. For those Australian programmes where the adult restorative treatment is not accredited as part of the undergraduate programme, a Dental Council New Zealand accredited programme is required to remove the Adult restorative treatment exclusion.

### Other

- New Zealand Oral Health Therapist Registration Examination and a Dental Council New Zealand accredited Adult restorative programme.

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<sup>1</sup> Qualification obtained since 2009 onwards

<sup>2</sup> Qualification obtained since 2008 onwards