

## **Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

### **ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES - 16 FEBRUARY 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

#### **Human Services Portfolio**

**Topic:** Chronic Disease Dental Scheme

**Question reference number:** HS 7

**Senator:** Abetz

**Type of question:** Hansard page 97

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 29 March 2012

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

Senator ABETZ: Can I put to you that you have the discretion to provide a complete waiver. It stands to reason that if you are given that discretion you must surely have the discretion for a partial waiver of the debt owed. If you are telling us that you are so tied up and bound that you do not have that discretion—it is only one or the other—can I ask you, Parliamentary Secretary, to ask the government to have a very close look at this and at the injustice that will be occasioned to a number of dentists who have deliberately gone out—I can think of one in my home state of Tasmania—to serve the lower socioeconomic sectors of our community. She is likely to face very severe financial hardship. She has taken that course rather than set up a nice city practice with all private clients and not having to face this sort of bureaucracy. The injustice that is being caused is quite gross. Quite frankly, I could not believe it at first until I went through the detail. So I ask you to take that on notice, Parliamentary Secretary.

Senator Lundy: Certainly, Senator Abetz.

#### **Answer:**

The Government keeps all matters relating to the operation of the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme under review, including compliance arrangements.