

**Subject:** Medicare Dental Scheme

5 April 2012

Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

AUSTRALIA

To whom it may concern

My husband, Dr Jim Yannopoulos, participated in the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme to assist his financially disadvantaged patients. His motives were entirely altruistic as the fees are considerably lower and he does not charge the patient the gap fee between Medicare and his fees. Obviously it would have been more lucrative for him to devote his time, professionally and administratively, to financially better off patients.

My husband has run his own practice for over twenty years and he has always complied with any legal and administrative requirements as required - for example, the Veterans Affairs Scheme. Unfortunately the requirements for the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme have been made clear to practitioners retrospectively and very belatedly. Further, they evidence bureaucratic overkill that completely ignores the purpose of the scheme – appropriate care provision to disadvantaged patients.

The focus of the audit appears to be punitive for participants but for what purpose? It would be illogical to think my husband (and many other dentists) participated in the scheme to benefit himself financially. Furthermore, it is very stressful for him – and our family - to deal with the unfair aspersions and reverse workflow which participating in the scheme has resulted in.

I question the amount of time and money being expended in what looks like an unwarranted bureaucratic 'witch hunt'. This audit appears to be where the real wastage of government monies and resources is occurring.

Yours sincerely

Tracey Yannopoulos