

SENATE FINANCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
HEALTH INSURANCE (DENTAL SERVICES) BILL 2012

11th April, 2012

It is my submission that the Dentists caught up in the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme audit be exonerated, thus allowing them to practise dentistry unencumbered.

To be caught up in this “letter of the law” exercise must be demoralizing when there was no intention to misuse the system.

On a personal level, I have lost the services of my dentist in my local town, and now need to travel, which is expensive and inconvenient. Transport is difficult, so some patients may have to go without.

Surely a way to proceed is to have Practice Managers/Heads responsible for paper work in each practice, thus allowing dentists to do what they do best.

I understand a lot of damage has resulted from this audit, both to the dentists involved, and to the patients, who have been locked out and left languishing. Surely this was not the intention of the exercise?

Dentists should not be penalised for putting the health of the nation’s teeth first. Mistakes in paper work due to incoherent bureaucratic requirements are Medicare’s responsibility. Far from showing that dentists were at fault, this audit actually shows that Medicare was incompetent in the administration of the Scheme—why did it take Medicare several years to realise that money was missing?

Thank you for this opportunity to make my thoughts known to you, my representatives,

ROSEMARY WATTS (MRS.)