

Subject: chronic disease dental scheme

Dear Sir /Madam,

I am a member of the dental profession and would like to make some comments about the 'Chronic Disease Dental Scheme'.

In my experience(first hand) this scheme is largely a misspent and inefficient use of tax payers money which could be much better targeted to those in genuine need. Furthermore it imposes an added layer of administration on private practices which we could well do without. the sooner this ill conceived scheme comes to an end the better.

If it must continue then at least there should be a central agency to vet the legitimacy of any proposed treatment(over a certain threshold), as already happens with the veterans affairs scheme, before approval to proceed is given.

Regarding dentists who have provided good and proper treatment for patients under this scheme but run foul of it due to no other reason than minor errors of paperwork no penalties should apply. Rather there should be a caution and advice on the correct procedures. Medicares actions in demanding refunds is unduly punitive and incommensurate with the offense.

I believe this scheme was the brainchild of our future PM Tony Abbott and this gives me reason for grave concern.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Russell.