

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees

Re : Chronic Disease Dental Scheme

Dear Committee,

I am writing to appeal to the committee's sense of fairness in considering administrative oversights by dentists in a more understanding manner.

By and large, this program has helped many patients across the country achieve a better standard of oral health. Some of these patients would not have the means to help themselves. Despite the occasional report of problems, a lot of good work has been done out there.

When this scheme was rolled out, communication about the administrative requirements was poor and many dentists for years have been treating these chronically ill patients in good faith.

It is disturbing to hear that over paperwork issues, some are being asked to pay back vast sums as penalties, given that treatment was actually provided and improved the well being of many Australians. Ofcourse, those bad apples that rorted the system by claiming for work that wasn't done should have penalties imposed.

Please consider legislation to protect the innocent ones who provided good treatment and didn't realise all the paperwork requirements

Yours faithfully

Dr Albert Sharp