

Senate Inquiry RE: CDDS

Dear Committee,

We are the parents of Dr. _____ who has been subject to an audit from Medicare.

Our daughter has been practicing dentistry for many years and has demonstrated to the community nothing but pure professionalism and kindness to the less fortunate. She is a regular charity donator and is a member of the Greek Orthodox church. She has on many occasions volunteered to help those in need in her community.

We have always maintained a very close relationship with our daughter. The first time she was contacted by a Medicare officer was the first time she knew of the paperwork requirements of Medicare. She was very distressed to know that she had not fulfilled the requirements and took immediate action to rectify her practices oversight. She has worked very hard for 14 years to build and establish this practice into a now large and successful dental surgery.

We, as her family are appalled at the way she has been treated by the Department of Human Services. She has merely not complied with a paperwork requirement and is being treated no different than that of a common criminal. She and her work associates have not only provided exceptional services to the community in need, but have provided services far beyond the schemes capabilities at no cost to the patient.

In addition to this, the media scrutiny that these professionals have been under is unacceptable. They have been branded rorters in the papers and in the public eye. This has been very damaging to their reputation as people who read this would be led to believe that the practice has done the wrong thing. Little does the reader know that the basis of these allegations has been directly as a result of a couple of pieces of paper.

Helens health and wellbeing has been adversely affected as a result of this audit process. She has been treated for high blood pressure and has been under the guidance of a counsellor. We have noticed a significant change in her personality also. The once bubbly, happy, motivated dentists, is now a withdrawn and depressed one. She has on numerous occasions said “ what’s the point of getting up in the morning when the government is going to take away everything I have ever worked hard for anyway.”

In 2011 she fell pregnant and suffered serious complication as a direct result of the stress she was under. Our grandchild’s life, and our daughters life was in jeopardy, and her baby was subsequently born early with a serious heart condition.

We urge the senate to strongly consider what this “witch hunt” has done to the lives of the professional people. These dentists have set out with good intentions to help the community and are now facing bankruptcy and emotional breakdowns as a result.

Yours sincerely,

Mary and Chris Arabatzis