

Dear Sir

I am Dr Philip Moss of

My dental surgery has been treating patients for over 15 years in the Veterans' scheme very successfully and without any problems. The scheme was well supported in all its implementation and in a very few cases of paperwork mistakes and not treatment mistakes we have been well treated and supported by the government. And not penalised as we have provided an excellent service to our veterans.

We started to see patients under the CDDS over three years ago and have seen more than 300 patients in this scheme. They have all been treated in good faith and received treatment that they could not have had under any other arrangements especially at Katoomba Hospital. The CDDS was not implemented in such a way that the administrative arrangements were well publicised and almost all our admin work was done by hit and miss and lots of hard work. We have had many early administrative oversights and trust that we have had none in recent times or in the future. The cost in staff time has been very high as is the loss of profits when we regularly bulk bill. We do it to help those in the local community who need dental assistance and will never get it locally. Most are pensioners and aged.

We are deeply disturbed by the consistent push by Medicare and the current government to make our health profession liable for these minor administrative oversights. At times we have had to call medical practice staff time and time again to ensure that the referring doctor has received the return paperwork only to be put off by their staff saying it was unnecessary thus resulting in patient treatment delays and cost to us.

We need the legislation to protect Dental Surgeons like us who have provided excellent treatment in good faith to the medically compromised and underprivileged patients, but have staff who may have overlooked some paperwork aspects.

The number of patients I have treated under the CDDS who have praised us, their GP and the scheme for helping them number in the hundreds. There have been the odd one who did not need this scheme or qualify for it but close to 100% did. Help us to maintain it and get a fair and honest result for the health profession and deserved treatment for the needy.

Regards

Dr Philip Alexander St Leger Moss  
Dental Surgeon

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