

3 April 2012

To the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

Reference – Health Insurance (dental services) Bill 2012 [No. 2]

Personal Background

My name is Daniela Yoannidis. I am a physiotherapist and I have been married to Dr. Angy Yoannidis for 18 years. We met while we were both studying at university 25 years ago. I am writing this submission to describe how the Medicare audit has impacted on our lives.

One of the qualities I admire most about Angy is his integrity. He has always strived to do his best in all aspects of his life, whether as a husband, father or in his profession. When I read through Angy's letter, it clearly states how when he initially completed the 20 patient self audit in Jan 2011- he did so with the belief that he had been compliant with all but 2 of his patients. What his letter doesn't reveal is the toll it has taken on him.

He did not hear back from Medicare for 1 year (16 Feb 2012). Throughout that year he faced constant uncertainty and worry about what was happening. Unfortunately it was not the only source of uncertainty in his life.

2 years ago I was diagnosed with a rare form of breast cancer. I have now been in remission for a year, but it was a difficult time for us. With 2 teenage children we have always done our best to remain optimistic and strong for them. Throughout this period, Angy was my rock. He never took time off work. With his increased demand in Dental work due to having taken on this Medicare scheme he remained committed to doing his best for them and easing the burden on the already stretched public system.

However now, I am deeply concerned on the emotional toll this has taken on him. I fear that this will cause him to leave the profession prematurely.

We are still facing uncertainty every day regarding my future health. For a dentist who has always prided himself on the quality of his work and patient satisfaction, the uncertainty that his reputation could be tarnished because of an administrative error in some cases appears quite unjust.

As a dentist with over 20 years of clinical experience who has never had a complaint against him, this is not the sort of professional you would want to lose.

Regards

Daniela Yoannidis