

Subject: Support for the private member's Bill CDDS

Dear Senate,

It is with sadness that I as a dentist in , write to support the Senate inquiry re Chronic Dental Disease Scheme. When this scheme was first introduced, it was with enthusiasm that a lot of dentists like myself took up the opportunity to service the portion of the population that really needed dental work. Our intentions been to remedy a situation that has been neglected for a long time. Little did we realize that it will come to this few years down the track.

I practice in a group practice of five dentists in , where there is a large elderly population and retirees with health issues. It was only recently last year when I returned from maternity leave was any major communications have been made from Medicare re administration requirements for the CDDS. Unlike if you are preferred provider for a health fund or if you were treating patients under the Veteran Affairs Schedule, the necessary protocol and requirements were not clearly communicated. Only when the amount of treatment provided exceeded Medicare's budget, did they convey administrative requirements.

Unless an intentional act of fraud has been performed, it is unfair and appalling to expect dentists to repay large sums of money for treatment rendered as the amounts fillings, crowns, dentures and extraction etc. cannot be returned and the patient gets to walk away with the treatments all completed at free of charge for Medicare. For some dentists, a lot of the work was done bulk-billed , much less than the fee normally charged, but done so to support the good intentions of the scheme.

The outcome of this legislation will determine whether the dentists as a group will support future dental schemes from the government. Also, it will allow us to concentrate on treating patients instead of worrying about being unfairly treated by Medicare.

Regards,

Dentist

Sent from my iPad