

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a Dental Professional, I have been treating patients under the CDDS for several years, always in good faith.

I was recently alerted that the Federal Government is planning on conducting audits of Dentists who have carried out work under this scheme.

The aspect that shocked me was that Dentists who have treated patients under the scheme may be liable to repay any fees earned if there were minor administrative oversights in their paperwork. This, to me, seems highly unfair on professionals who have provided good quality treatment to patients who otherwise would not have been able to afford it, and may have made simple administrative mistakes. Forcing Dentists to repay what could amount to tens, even hundreds of thousands of dollars, would no doubt place stress on the Dentists themselves, but also their families, staff and patients.

I believe that legislation needs to protect Dentists who have provided good quality, necessary work in good faith to patients who were seen under the CDDS.

I also feel that not enough emphasis has been placed on the referring GPs who have not sent the appropriate paperwork, or who refer patients whose entitlement to the CDDS may be questionable.

Dr Clare Straker

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