

## Submission to the senate enquiry re-CDDS Audits

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a Dental Prosthetist working in private practice in the state of Tasmania. Over many years Doctors and Dentists have been working with governments through their private practices and overall the union has been reasonably smooth. Dental Prosthetists were added to the veteran affairs scheme many years ago and since then hospitals have also had to farm out more of their work because of the ever increasing workloads. This has been fruitful and the proof has been in the continuance of these schemes until recently when the present government decided to axe the EPC scheme. The senate in its wisdom decided not to support the government until another could flow on and not leave some people affected that need more urgent treatment in the lurch. This government is trying everything to railroad this scheme to make it look worse in terms of its organisational abilities and is using tactics such as accusing individual operators of cheating the system and asking for monies to be repaid for work already carried out simply because of a lack of paperwork (which under the rules that seem suddenly to have been introduced) are not fully prepared. Well the evidence is all the other schemes work so why not this one. My experience to date is simply because Medicare is very dictatorial on the occasions I have dealt with and are very unbusinesslike. Had the system been properly modelled on Vets affairs and incorporated into the same type of operation as vets affairs no doubt this present situation wouldn't have arisen. In my practice now I have had to lift prices to EPC scheme patients because of the chance of being audited which would cost time, money the extra paperwork and the investigatory and history taking notifications, agreements and consents which have to be carried out. The prices have to be lifted 15% to cover these costs. For Medicare to act in the way it has with some of the operators is a disgrace and is typical of the heavy handed approach usually taken when the blame should fall on their own shoulders for failing to organise the scheme correctly and iron any blemishes much sooner than waiting for the financial blowout to occur.

I therefore suggest the government treats practitioners with more respect and will consider taking advice and constructive criticism in dealing with those who have been caught a little short on the paperwork and can constructively rebuild this scheme into a more useful tool so that those requiring more speedy treatment can be helped and with the minimum of cost. If you have read and are still this submission I thank you for myself and for those I treat in my practice.

Dated this day April 12<sup>th</sup> 2012

