

The Family Dental Practice,

Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee

Re the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme

Dear Sirs,

Practising dentistry in a working class suburb it is obvious that a large proportion of the population cannot afford dentistry in a private practice setting.

Thus the introduction of the CDDS by the previous Liberal government held an expectation that at last dental treatment could be offered to some of the most needy and health compromised members of society.

Having treated eligible people under the Department of Veteran Affairs dental scheme for past 32 years but having had no prior experience with the Medicare bureaucracy I incorrectly assumed that the main purpose of the scheme was to provide dentistry to those eligible and not to cross every 't' and dot every 'i', no matter how trivial.

At the commencement of the scheme it was not adequately stressed that fulfilling every clerical requirement, carried out in the correct sequence, was absolutely essential and failure to do so would result in refunding all the fees to Medicare.

The penalties imposed by the current legislation are draconian and if the dental profession is to continue to treat patients under the CDDS the law requires urgent amendment.

Yours sincerely,

John E C Wilson