

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee members

We write in support of the Bill proposed by the Shadow Minister for Health Peter Dutton seeking to change Medicare's stance in asking dentists to repay monies for CDDS dental treatment. Dentists have completed work in good faith, trying to help implement Government initiatives.

As a practice we have been involved in the scheme since its inception, we have always placed the health of our patients as a first priority and have tried to provide treatment in accordance with the guidelines, liaising with the referring GP and Medicare constantly. Unfortunately due to the complexity of the scheme mistakes in this process are inevitable, we have addressed these issues as they have presented.

If there has been unprofessional sorting of the scheme then those dentists should be held to account but leniency must be shown to those members of the profession whose only error has been to incorrectly complete paperwork and for administrative oversights. Much needed work has been carried out on thousands of needy patients under this scheme.

The CDDS system in its present state carries a heavy paperwork burden and should be modified to make the whole scheme simpler. Surely this can be achieved while still ensuring safe guards to protect public monies.

Yours

Dr. Garry Hibble

Dr. Tim Curran

Dr. Gavin Sidhu