



Mr Dimos Andrianopoulos

**Submission to The Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Reference – Health Insurance (Dental Services) Bill 2010 (No. 2)**

My name is Dimos Andrianopoulos and I am the father of Dr Tony Andrianopoulos, who has had his own dental practice for nearly 20 years at 178A Mitchell St, Northcote.

From the time Medicare implemented the CDDS program to help financially strapped individuals with chronic health problems, Tony was able to help a large population of needy patients with the help of 2 part-time dentists and four dental nurses and receptionists.

The cost of providing these dental services is very high, with many laboratory fees involved, as well as maintenance costs and labour costs. The CDDS program became a large proportion of Tony's practice, almost as much as 80 per cent of patients treated fell into this category.

Tony is a very honest and sincere person, and is well respected and admired, both for his character and work ethic, by all of his patients.

Due to the high work demand, it seems unfair that Medicare is willing to severely punish dentists such as Tony who can easily fall behind with some paperwork in the administrative process.

It is very severe punishment to reclaim back money for services that have been provided, without consideration for the hard work that has gone into it. It also overlooks the expenditure involved in providing these services, which are high out of pocket expenses.

From the moment Medicare began the audit process, Tony has been severely psychologically traumatized. For the first time in his career, he has lost his zest to provide dental services to patients in the devoted fashion he always carried out his work in from the start of his career.

It is a tragedy that the government can impose such measures on hard-working professionals, especially in a country like Australia which supposedly prides itself in being a democratic and just country.

After working so hard to provide dental services to a needy population, he has been made to feel like a criminal and a scapegoat for a political money retrieval system.

As Tony's father, I have worked very hard for 60 years in this country to educate my children to become good members of society, which is what Tony is and is now raising 3 children of his own.

I hope the government will correct this great injustice that is taking place amongst the dental profession, which tries to service the dental health of our population in a highly responsible manner.

Thank you for considering my point of view in the concerning matter.

Dimos Andrianopoulos