
23 April 2012

Submission to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

RE: Chronic Disease Dental Scheme Audits

I have been concerned about the attitude of the government while conducting audits of the dental treatment provided under the Medicare scheme. There has been a 'witch-hunt' mentality where any non-compliance of 'process', regardless of how trivial, has been regarded as fraudulent.

Dentists, having completed appropriate treatment plans, often to long-term patients, have suddenly found themselves regarded as frauds, ripping off the system, both in the media and in their practices. The stress this has caused to many practitioners, that have NOT been found to have done any inappropriate treatment, has been immense. It is time to right this wrong.

Many colleagues within the specialist fields also refuse to see patients under the CDDS out of fear that they may miss an administrative step and be branded as a clinician rorting the system. This is a ridiculous concern brought about by an inappropriate government tactic or process.

I ask the committee to consider the bill before it favourably, to make it mandatory to clearly identify between fraudulent activity and administrative errors, and to cease all financial claims against those who have made simple mistakes of administration.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Stewart Cottis

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