

Subject: Senate Inquiry into the CCDS scheme

RE: Health Insurance (Dental services) Bill 2012 introduced by Senator Peter Dutton March 19th 2012

Dear Senator's,

As a Dental Prosthesis of 20 years experience I find many of my private patients are becoming elderly with chronic medical conditions, it has been of great advantage for them to receive dentures under the Medicare CDDS scheme.

As a registered practitioner I applied to be a provider under this scheme and paid to be sent a copy of the "Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing Medicare Benefits Schedule Dental Services, 1 November 2008."

As a private practitioner and member of the Australian Dental Prosthesis's Association (Victoria) ADPA for 42 years I have been a provider for Veteran Affairs patients for 28 years.

Through the vast experience I personally have with Veteran Affairs and private practice patients I believe the consideration should be weighted on the patients wellbeing and not on the administrative requirements of a government body. This is why I support the above bill.

I have not had any issue with the manner in which Veteran Affairs have previously managed the system. As the expertise for identifying and dealing with the patient requirements lies with us so should the nature of information sought by Medicare for this situation. If the patient has been referred by the doctor/dentist and an item has been signed for by the patient. This item can be identified and then tracked. The nature of how the information is sought and accuracy of what is conveyed is not under interpretation. Clearly we are concerned that the current nature of Medicare's auditing is taking expert time and concentration away from the patient welfare by over zealous administrative tasks.

Yours Sincerely

Thomas A Dods
Medicare Provider