



AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND ACADEMY OF PERIODONTISTS

ABN 96 276 553 810

11th July 2018

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Submission from Australian and New Zealand Academy of Periodontists (ANZAP)

The Australian and New Zealand Academy of Periodontists (ANZAP) support the implementation of the Private Health Reform Package particularly with regard to 'Private Health Insurance (PHI) Legislation Amendment Bill 2018', and associated reforms to PHI for General Treatment (Extras: Dental).

We pointed out in our first submission dated, 25th July 2017 (accepted as unpublished correspondence) that many of our patients receive very low rebates for periodontal treatment by a specialist periodontist (specialist treatment is often required beyond the capabilities of the general dentist) as there are no treatment PHI item numbers restricted to specialist periodontists and not available to general dentists.

This is one reason our patients (periodontitis affects about 8% of the population and untreated can result in loss of teeth) are opting out of PHI Extras and we are currently supporting this choice as better value than paying an insurance premium and most of our fee out of their own pocket.

The policy problem you are trying to solve is 'the decline in health insurance participation' and government action is required as patients get 'poor value for money' and there is a 'lack of transparency'.

Therefore we support any reforms that would help provide patients with fair rebates for specialist periodontal treatment and increase the powers of the PHI ombudsman to investigate patient and practitioner complaints regarding unfair and unclear rebating practices against our patients, and false accusations against practitioners.

We would also suggest changes to the rebate system to provide item numbers, with higher rebates, for use only by periodontists to reflect the complex and time consuming nature of some of the treatments



we provide. For example, this could be achieved by including these item numbers in the proposed Gold Category of General Treatment.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Yours Sincerely

Dr David Drew
President
ANZAP