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To: The Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to comment the private members Bill move by Peter Dutton MP the Health Insurance (Dental Services) Bill 2012. The Chronic Disease Dental Scheme (CDDS) has been very successful in addressing dental issues in people with chronic diseases and who in many cases would otherwise, not have had access to dental services.

Almost a third of Australians do not receive the dental care they need due to their inability to afford the cost of dental services. The 8/4/128/4/12S has provided access to dental care for some of the most vulnerable citizens in our community and allowed them to access dental care and address a major contributing factor to their chronic health issues.

As I only bulk bill my patients in Liverpool area, I find that this is a great help to those who need it the most. As the patient cannot afford additional payments. The links between poor oral health and chronic disease is well documented and we know that prevention and remedial actions are successful strategies for addressing chronic disease issues. The CDDS is a success full program for delivering clinical outcomes that address chronic disease issues.

PLEASE NOTE:

This all started in 2007 at the beginning of the CDDS. We were advised with a schedule book by mail to read, no face to face contact. Only advised that the scheme was active and would be run along the

lines of the DVA scheme.

We were advised In June 2011 that I was to be audited. I provided full co-operation and files were sent to auditors from Medicare from the 2 previous years. I was found to be in compliant due to a clerical error of not advising the referring doctor before I commenced treatment but only . when I had finished. I have been found to have done nothing criminally, clinically nor fraudulently wrong, only a minor clerical error.

We are now awaiting the outcome of this audit and have not been advised since December 2011. We have had to undertake the advise of a barrister which has cost me several thousand dollars. The stress of all of this on me and my wife and family and the possibility of having to repay 2 years worth of dentures issued to patients has taken a huge toll. I feel my health has suffered as a result of all of this worry. Our lives have been put on hold. I fear that I may lose all that I have worked for over so many years in my dental practice.

Some of my patients have contacted me after having received letters from Medicare about this and asking them questions about how I dealt with the. They are worried that they are the ones that have done something wrong. Most of these patients are elderly and are upset by these letters and questions, they do not understand what is going on.

The pursuit of dental practitioners by Medicare for minor administrative compliance issues, while conceding that clinical outcomes have been achieved is an unwarranted and unnecessary action against dental practitioners.

I comment the Health Insurance (Dental Services) Bill 2012 and ask that you support its passage through the Parliament.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT W LANSDOWN