

Dear Senate Committee,

I am writing to you regarding the Private Member's Bill with respect to Medicare Australia demanding money back from dentists participating in the Enhanced Primary Care Scheme. Whilst fully acknowledging the Government's responsibility to protect taxpayers funds and pursue dentists who fraudulently claimed amounts, there needs to be some distinction between them, and those who have inadvertently not complied with the administrative requirements of the scheme. I would appeal to your sense of logic and fairness in considering the proposal. I know of friends who have been audited, and have been asked to repay large amounts of money purely on the basis of these administrative errors. It was a new scheme, dentists have had no dealings with Medicare in the past, and I believe those errors were the result of these facts. There is a clear distinction between dentists that have made fraudulent claims, and those who have simply committed administrative errors, and in these cases, the punishment is ill fitting of the actions. Furthermore, it leaves the dental profession in the unenviable position of not wanting to participate in other schemes in the future. As such, I implore you to reconsider the position taken by Medicare Australia, and as such consider passing the amendments proposed by Mr. Peter Dutton.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Jim Bossinakis, BDSc, Dip. Clin. Dent.