

To

Hon. Members

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

Dear Hon. Members,

I urge you to support the private members bill introduced by The Hon. Peter Dutton in the House of Representatives and by Senator Richard Di Natale in the senate.

I participated in the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme (CDDS), when it was first introduced and paid a maximum of \$176, because I felt it was a good way of helping really sick people. I often did the fillings or extractions required at no extra charge. So when the new scheme started in 2007, I saw it as an opportunity to help these same people more substantially.

The 2007 CCD scheme started without much fanfare and I found out about it, only when patients turned up at surgery saying that they are entitled to \$4250 worth of treatment. Then we received a booklet from Medicare, the most prominent part of which was the items that are claimable. Importance to providing written quotes to Patients or to Medical practitioners was not stressed as mandatory or even essential. Also at this stage the CCDS was to be abolished by 30 June 2008 and we were flooded with panicking patient who didn't want to miss out and we were forced to work on Sundays in June!

At that stage and before it was publicized widely, we provided only those doctors and patients who wanted it, reports, quotes and summary. Now of course, after Medicare has made it clear that it is mandatory all practitioners and patients are provided with a written quote and summary of treatment required.

At all times we have provided ,as most of colleagues , good treatment to all patients and services exceeding the \$4250 limit to those that were in need. This is not to say that everybody acted altruistically but the majority of the profession has the patient's welfare at heart and I for one was happy to help a great many sick and needy people in my area.

If fraudulent claims were made I will be the first to condemn it and ask for retribution, but what Medicare under the direction of the Government is doing is to persecute honest dentist who have performed good treatment, paid their employees, the dental labs and dental companies for materials for no other reason than a minor error or oversight in providing some paper work. This too without properly educating or providing clear guide line or instructions.

I find this a gross act of injustice and malice towards a profession that cares for people and strives for excellence in its work. This matter has caused me to think seriously about giving up my profession, so I call on you good people of our parliament to restore fairness and reason.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely