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DENTAL SURGEON

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2 April 2012

Community Affairs Legislative Committee  
Re: Health Insurance (Dental Services) Bill 2012  
Parliament House  
Canberra

To whom it may concern,

My submission re: the Bill

I participated in the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme because this was an opportunity for my some of my patients to receive dental care that would have been beyond their reach under normal circumstance. My participation enabled chronically ill patient to become pain free and acquire a functional dentition, be this through restoration of teeth or the provision of dentures.

The information originally to me by Medicare was non-existent and we functioned from information provided by the patients in their paper work forwarded by their medical GP.

When the practice requested information from Medicare the only paper work provided was a booklet containing scant information about the scheme and a schedule of fees for services performed under the scheme.

This is the only Medicare Scheme I have participated in or been aware of and if I had known the problems that would arise from my participation I would have had serious thoughts about participating.

For most of my 44 years as a dental surgeon I have participated in the Department of Veteran Affairs dental scheme and in that time have had no problems treatment planning, treatment or billing. Therefore I find it most upsetting to have this audit for my treatment of patients under the Medicare Scheme.

As previously stated requests were made for information about the implementation of the Medicare Scheme within my practice and the only material received was a single booklet with little information and a schedule of fees which was not very helpful and provided scant information regarding the implementation of the scheme.

At present I have been audited, advised benefits were incorrectly claimed due to faulty paper work and were to repay in excess of \$100,000.00. This claim if pursued would force me to close my practice as it would not be viable.

During the time that I have been operating the Scheme the patients treated have benefitted by having their oral health restored to an optimum level that would not have been attainable had they did not have access to the Scheme. None of the patients were adversely affected in circumstances where I did not with all the rules of the Scheme such as Section 10 of the Determination.

I have been audited but at no stage has a Medicare auditor attended my practice to physically conduct an audit. There has been no offer of educational material or advice from Medicare or its representatives.

The result of the audit has left me very distressed and would seriously consider not treating patients under such a scheme in the future with such draconian rules and regulations. If Medicare persists in pursuing their so-called debt I would seriously consider closing my practice and retiring.

Your Faithfull

Dr David Landau  
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