

Alison Clegg  
Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Health and Ageing  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Clegg

### **House of Representatives Committee Inquiry into Adult Dental Services**

Thank you for your letter of 21 February 2013 regarding the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing inquiry into adult dental services.

A key aspect to ensuring that the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) meets the localised needs of each state and territory is that the NPA should uphold the principles of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations and the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA).

The ACT Health Directorate expects the Commonwealth uphold its commitment to move away from prescriptions on service delivery in the form of financial or other input controls, which inhibit state service delivery and priority setting, and instead, focus on the achievement of mutually agreed outcomes, providing the states and territories with increased flexibility in the way services are delivered.

The ACT also expects the NPA to uphold principles of the NHRA such as all Commonwealth funding for state public hospitals is to go into the national health funding pool and that there be a reduction in administrative burden.

In addition to this, the NPA needs to clearly outline mechanisms determining how ongoing funding responsibilities will be managed beyond the term of the NPA. This would manage the risk of improvements achieved during the course of the NPA being lost in the future.

Yours sincerely

Dr Peggy Brown MBBS (Hons) FRANZCP  
**Director-General**  
Health Directorate

19 March 2013