

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES - 14 FEBRUARY 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Chronic Disease Dental Scheme – Letter

Question reference number: HS 14

Senator: Bushby

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

In reference to the letter that the Department of Human Services sent to at least one of the dentists whose debt has been waived it says:

“The Department based its applications for waiver on the following criteria:

- *The late or non-provision of treatment plans and quotes for audited dental practitioners’ claims made before April 2010; and*
- *In cases after this time, where an audited dental practitioner had shown their intent to meet the Scheme’s requirement by providing treatment plans and quotes within a reasonable timeframe after the service was delivered.”*

- a) What is considered to be within a reasonable timeframe?
- b) What will happen to those dentists audited after April 2010?

Answer:

- a) Whether a “reasonable timeframe” has been met by a dental practitioner will depend on the circumstances in each case. Where the Department has information that the treatment plans and quotes were provided by the dental practitioner after the treatment commenced, and before the treatment was finalised, this will generally be considered a reasonable timeframe.
- b) Where a dental practitioner has been audited, or will be audited, in relation to services provided after 1 April 2010, the Department will review the information on hand and determine whether the treatment plan and quote were provided within a reasonable timeframe. If the treatment plan and quote were not provided within a reasonable timeframe, or never provided, the services will be assessed as non-compliant and the debt will be pursued.

Where the services are assessed as falling within the criteria, an application for waiver to the Department of Finance and Deregulation will be made on behalf of the dental practitioner by the Department, in respect of the debt related to this non-compliance.