

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES - 20 OCTOBER 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Chronic Disease Dental Scheme – General

Question reference number: HSW 65

Senator: Bushby

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 December 2011

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) How has the projected number of cases referred by GPs each year compared to the actual number of referrals under the CDDS since inception?
- b) Has the government taken into consideration issues raised by stakeholders, including that the CDDS is not means tested, and that the sole criteria for eligibility was through a GP identifying that a patient had a chronic disease and that dental treatment may alleviate the illness?
- c) Are administrative oversights by dentists being used to penalise them even though treatments have been legitimately provided?
- d) Why did Medicare wait more than 2 years to embark on any research as to dentists' compliance with these administrative requirements?
- e) Why was it not until the Australian Dental Association met with Medicare in early 2010 that any education programme was embarked upon in respect of these administrative requirements?
- f) Why when the services have been legitimately provided by dentists, has Medicare demanded repayment from dentists of monies received under the CDDS instead of just asking that the paperwork deficiencies be addressed?
- g) How many times has Medicare received a complaint from a GP that a dentist has failed to provide a treatment plan to them?
- h) Are you aware of any dentists who have been audited under this scheme, since having taken their own life?

Answer:

See answer to Senate Question on Notice 1227.