

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 18 OCTOBER 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Chronic Disease Dental Scheme Audits

**Question reference number:** HS 141

**Senator:** Bushby

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 7 December 2012

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

- a) Has the Department begun re-assessing the cases of dentists found to be non-compliant following the Medicare's audit of the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme?
- b) If not:
  - 1) Why not?
  - 2) When are the re-assessments due to start?
  - 3) When is it anticipated that they will be complete?
- c) If so:
  - 1) How many of the 66 dentists found to be non-compliant following an audit have been re-assessed?
  - 2) When will the remaining dentists be re-assessed?
  - 3) How many of the audit findings have changes?
  - 4) What was the criteria used to determine whether the audit finding should change?
  - 5) Have dentists been notified?
  - 6) Is the Department aware whether the Government has been approached by dentists seeking compensation whose audit findings have changed?

**Answer:**

- a) The Department has begun re-assessing the cases of dental practitioners found to be non-compliant following audits of the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme.
- b) See (a).
- c)
  - 1) As at 31 October 2012, 55 of the 66 dental practitioners, where debt recovery was sought or was required to be sought, have been reviewed.
  - 2) It is expected that the remaining reviews will be completed by 30 November 2012.
  - 3) In all 55 cases reviewed, non-compliance with the requirements of the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme was confirmed. These cases were then further assessed on their suitability for a waiver application to be made on their behalf by the Department to the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

- 4) The criteria applied to determine whether application for a waiver is appropriate are:
  - the late or non-provision of treatment plans and quotes for claims made before April 2010; and/or
  - the provision of treatment plans and quotes within a reasonable timeframe after the service was delivered, for claims made after April 2010.
- 5) The Department has been working closely with the Australian Dental Association and the Australian Dental Prosthetists Association on communication to their members about the waiver application process. Individual dental practitioners will receive formal advice from the Department on the result of the waiver application process.
- 6) The Department is not aware of any approach to the Government by dental practitioners regarding compensation.