

11-4-2012

To Whom it May Concern

Re – Chronic Disease Dental Scheme

I am writing in support of the proposal to reimburse dentists affected by the recent Medicare auditing process. My partner and I have been patients of Dr [redacted] for some years and in particular my partner has been visiting her since before the introduction of the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme. During this time my partner's health has deteriorated, she now has dementia and requires full time care, she also needs continuity of health providers and good dental support to maintain her nutritional status, repair or remove any broken teeth, and keep her pain free. We have always found Dr [redacted] caring, prepared to “go the extra mile”, honest, and able to provide high quality treatment.

As a result of Medicare's action my partner has lost her regular dentist, and the convenience of attending a local clinic as Dr [redacted] no longer visits Huonville. This means that my partner needs to travel an extra 40 to 50 kilometers in order to be treated. This is a huge imposition as she recently fractured a vertebrae and finds extended trips difficult to impossible to undertake.

We are both amazed that Dr [redacted] has been involved in a situation where she has been subjected to innuendos of malpractice, dishonesty, and rorting the system, let alone any financial ramifications. We are also at a loss to know where to obtain dental support as that practice no longer accepts the scheme's clients and the dental services provided by the state have protracted waiting lists, and as my partner is now 88 she may not survive long enough to receive the required treatment.

Finally I hope that the situation is resolved, that any “administrative” issues are ironed out, and that the confidence of the dental profession is restored in government sponsored dental programmes, especially those for the chronically ill and people on low income, so that future schemes are assured of success for those providing treatment and those in need of it.

Yours sincerely

Sally McDermott