



Consumers
Health Forum
of Australia

10 May 2013

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

Submission No. 015.1

(Dental Services)

Date: 10/05/2013

Dear Dr Clegg,

Inquiry into Adult Dental Services in Australia – Response to Question on Notice

The Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF) provided evidence at a public hearing of the Standing committee of Health and Ageing Inquiry into Adult Dental Services in Australia on Monday 22 April 2013. In our evidence at that hearing, we were asked to provide further information on performance indicators or progress indicators that would support measurable progress of the National Partnership Agreement.

While previous agreements have focused on the allocation of funding, CHF considers that that this agreement should focus on achieving measurable outcomes. Funding under the National partnership Agreement should be provided to the States to:

- Increase regular check-up rates as a means of reducing acute presentations
- Eliminate co-payments for pensioners and Health Care Card holders
- Reduce the number of preventable hospitalisations caused by dental diseases and tissue infection
- Implement community wide oral health promotion and community education
- Provide dental services for high-risk consumers according to need, including provision of general services, emergency care and more complex treatments
- Provide dental health service infrastructure and programs for hard to reach populations.

CHF also recommends the inclusion of the targets proposed by the National Advisory Council on Dental Health's report¹ on options for reform.

CHF thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide evidence. If you would like any further clarification on any of the matters discussed in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Bennett
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

¹ Australian Government 2012, *Final Report of National Advisory Council on Dental Health*, Accessed online at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/final-report-of-national-advisory-council-on-dental-health.htm>