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Mr Elton Humphery
Committee Secretary
Australian Senate
Community Affairs Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Humphery

Re: Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Dental Services) Bill 2007

Thank you for your correspondence of 17 August inviting the AMA to provide a submission on the Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Dental Services) Bill 2007. The AMA welcomes the opportunity to respond, however no formal submission will be entered at this time.

The AMA supports the Bill and commends the increased access to dental treatment for people with chronic conditions and complex care needs. In particular we commend the extension of the Bill to include benefits for the supply of dental prostheses, including dentures.

There is however some ongoing concern that GPs have difficulty locating a dentist who will accept the rebates as full payment when referring patients. It is anticipated that other initiatives announced in the last Federal Budget will go some way to addressing this issue.

The AMA expresses its desire that further funding initiatives be rolled out to broaden access to dental care beyond those with chronic conditions and complex care needs.

Yours sincerely

Mr Kerry Gallagher
Acting CEO

August 2007

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