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Ms Susan Want,  
Acting Director,  
Standing Committee on Social Issues,  
Legislative Council,  
Parliament House,  
Macquarie Street,  
SYDNEY. NSW 2000

Dear Ms Want

Thank you for your letter of June 30, 2005, concerning the Inquiry into Dental Services in NSW. During my testimony on June 29, 2005, I was asked by Dr. Chesterfield-Evans:

"What percentage of the funding for dentistry is retained by the university as an overhead? In other words, of the money that comes from Canberra, or wherever funding comes from, how much do you actually get for your faculty?"

At the time, I had to take the specific question on notice although I did address some of the issues in the remainder of the reply. I am now able to expand on the reply.

As indicated in my comments, what seems to be a simple question from the Honourable Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans does not have a simple answer. The short answer would be that there is no percentage that can be calculated. On the basis of the information available to me I am confident that the resources received by the University are applied fully, both directly and indirectly, to support the Faculty of Dentistry.

The University receives resources to support the Faculty of Dentistry from four major sources, namely a) a direct operating grant from DEST based on students numbers, b) student fees including HECS and full fee income, c) performance based income related to faculty research output and completed research postgraduate students, and d) essential in-kind support from the Area Health Services.

As I indicated in my original responses, this income is applied to support teaching and research in the Faculty in a wide variety of ways. The direct funds received by the Faculty are partly based on crude student numbers (both Commonwealth supported and fee paying students), but this income is moderated on an annual basis in ways that reward objectively assessed performance in both teaching and research, and in response to ad-

*hoc* capital and infrastructure needs. For these reasons this direct support varies from year to year.

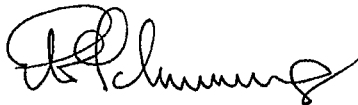
Indirect support to the Faculty comes from the University in many forms. Some of the more significant support comes from the University library services and IT services, as well as access to common teaching space and the provision of a range of student services and facilities.

For the reasons given above the proportion of support provided directly and indirectly by the University varies from year to year according to past performance, defined need, and student numbers.

The committee will be aware that Commonwealth's share of the total income of the higher education sector has declined significantly in recent years and continues to fall. This affects the Faculty of Dentistry in the same way that it affects other Faculties of the University. The Faculty has responded to the increasingly difficult financial environment by successfully growing its number of fee-paying students, and by obtaining other forms of external income such as grants and donations. Its success in doing so has enabled it to maintain a high quality teaching program.

Finally, I would like to add that it would be impossible to provide the clinical education in dentistry without the active support and goodwill of the Department of Health and particularly the two Area Health Services, Sydney South West and Sydney West, which provide the infrastructure, the patient population, and partially the manpower for the Faculty of Dentistry.

Yours sincerely,



Eli Schwarz,  
Professor and Dean

cc: Professor Don Nutbeam, Pro Vice-Chancellor