

Submission
No 155

INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW

Organisation:

Name: Mrs Sheila Treanor

Telephone:

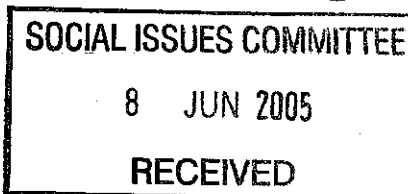
Date Received: 8/06/2005

Theme:

Summary

Sheila Treanor**To...****Cc...****Bcc...****Subject:****Attachments:**

The Standing Committee On Social Issues
Legislative Council, NSW Parliament
Macquarie St , NSW 2000 .



06/05/2005.

RE: The Inquiry By The Standing Committee On Social Issues Into Dental Health

Dear Sir/Madam

As a permanent resident of NSW, I have long been concerned about the degrading state of dental health, service and education, and welcome the Upper House Inquiry into this neglected area of health care.

I am aware of many people who suffer significant pain and disability from poor dental health, and am dismayed by the lack of adequate services to relieve their pain and restore their lives to normal function. There seems to be little health promotion in dental health, and due to the costs involved many people go years without any regular dental checks.

In the UK we have subsidised dental treatment for children and pensioners, and I always had dental reviews every 6 months, from my childhood, but here in Australia there is nothing. Even the school children are only seen once in school by a dental practitioner during their school time, and there is no continuity or encouragement to visit regularly.

I recognize that public dental services are patchy, with some areas receiving comparatively good care and most of the eligible population unable to access routine dental care in a reasonable time.

I am concerned that people living in rural areas are often unable to find a dentist, despite being able to pay for service, and am further worried by the prospect of dental shortages in metropolitan areas.

Finally, I am concerned that despite there being many internal and external reports of these problems to both State and Federal governments, including a Senate Inquiry in 1998, very little seems to have been done to prevent the current and developing dental crisis. It is of note that despite an increase of about one billion dollars for NSW Health in the recent budget, no new funding for dental health has been allocated.

I hope that the current inquiry results in positive action being taken to address these concerns, and expect the State Government to accept its responsibility for ensuring adequate dental health, services and education for NSW.

Sincerely

Mrs Sheila Treanor,

Registered Nurse,