

Submission
No 153

INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW

Organisation:

Name: Mrs Helen Zoellner

Telephone:

Date Received: 10/06/2005

Theme:

Summary

Mrs Helen Zoellner

The Director
The Standing Committee on Social Issues
The Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie St, NSW 2000

RE: The Inquiry Into Dental Services

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a speech pathologist working in a metropolitan Community Health centre, and as such have some contact with patients suffering severe dental disease.

I see families who are often unable to afford dental treatment. The parents themselves often have missing teeth, and this appears to reduce their chances of employment and self-esteem, with further effects upon their children.

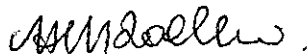
Further, my husband is a dental academic as are some of our family friends. I see the effect of long hours and under-funding of the dental educational system upon our families, and understand why so many dental academics choose to leave the system.

There has been much media attention on the lack of dental services, and it worries me that despite this nothing seems to have been done to address the problem.

It depresses me to think that even after so much public discussion, no extra money has been committed to dental services in the last State budget. If this is all the government can do after so much public controversy for dentistry, I despair of there ever being any improvement for my own area of health care.

I believe there needs to be significant improvement in funding for dental services and education, and hope the NSW government responds to the inquiry into dental services with the necessary funding.

Sincerely



Helen Zoellner