

Submission
No 115

INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW

Organisation:

Name: Mrs Mary Kirk

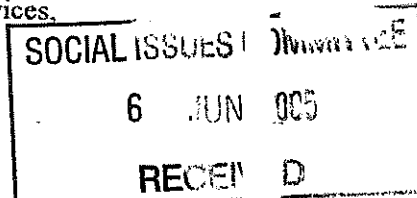
Telephone:

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Theme:

Summary

The Standing Committee on Dental Services,
Legislative Council,
Parliament House,
SYDNEY. 2000.



Dear Committee,

MONA VALE HOSPITAL DENTAL SERVICE.

I heard this morning via Alan Jones' radio session, that a committee is looking into Dental Services and that the public could participate in the enquiry. For this reason, I detail my experience of yesterday at Mona Vale Hospital Dental Services.

Firstly, the lady dentist I usually see has "left". In her place another lady tended to me. I told her the reason for my visit was because I was concerned about a tooth, which had a badly receding gum and was giving me pain. I told her the previous dentist painted the area with something, which had helped for quite a long time.

The new dentist left me flabbergasted and on return home my comments to my husband were that the Dentist did not want to find anything needing to be done etc. and I was so disappointed.

The dentist gave me a lecture on receding gums and told me to put a dab of Sensodyne toothpaste on the area. She made no attempt to do anything else. I said words to the effect what happens if it decays and she said you would have to get the tooth out. I replied that my husband was undergoing a root canal filling at the present time. She replied that was something about the tooth being rotten inside and bla bla bla --- to the effect that my tooth would just have to come out in the future. I interpreted this as the Govt. would not enter into the thought of funding for my tooth to be saved.

The Dentist was about to dismiss me without any check of my mouth for any fillings, which might have deteriorated, or holes that had appeared.

I said words to the effect "Could you please check the rest of my mouth, please?" and the reply was "People your age just don't get holes, only the young people get holes". She did not check my teeth.

I came home, after attending with great difficulty (my husband very ill) and said "You know that Dentist just doesn't want to find any work to be done - just not interested to look in my mouth in case she found work to be done. Honestly, that is how it was and I am glad to have the opportunity to write to you and tell you that Dental help for the aged is being phased out and our local Dentist was dreadfully disappointing.

I do hope you can do something to get an improved service. My trip was a waste of time and effort after waiting for some months to be seen. I am terribly disappointed.

Yours truly,

Mary Kirk

(Mrs.) Mary Kirk J.P.