

Submission  
No 80

## INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Ms Barbara Malcolm

**Telephone:**

**Date Received:** 27/05/2005

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**Theme:**

**Summary**

**Committee Social Issues - Enquiry into Dental Services in NSW**

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**From:** [et.au](mailto:et.au)  
**To:** <[socialissues@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:socialissues@parliament.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Date:** 27/05/2005 11:10 AM  
**Subject:** Enquiry into Dental Services in NSW

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Barbara Malcolm.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you re the Enquiry in Dental Services.

Earlier this year my seventy eight year old husband was unfortunate enough to loose two of his front lower teeth. He is fortunate in that he is still able to drive so was able to get to the local clinic.

His initial appointment took one month before he could see a dentist. On examination it was found he needed all except two of his lower teeth removed and replaced with a denture.

Not everyone is able to do this and elderly commuters living in rural areas are often inconvenienced by lack of transport at a time when they are suffering dental health problems. This adds greatly to the length of time it takes to obtain an appointment that can be accessed by public transport.

Once a referral is obtained and you get into the private sector things seem to move along fairly smoothly, but just getting to the point where the local dentist can be accessed, is distressing and slow, at a time when pain and discomfort are affecting your ability to travel.

In my husband's case, he had everything in his favour re transport yet from the time he was first in need of dental treatment till the time he received his new denture he needed to make many visits and months had passed. This all happened in a city area where transport and reasonable services are available and distances not so great. In regional and rural areas access is a serious issue that needs to be addressed.

I hope you will take these concerns to the Standing Committee.  
Regards, Barbara Malcolm