

Submission
No 114

INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW

Organisation:

Name: Dr J Kenny

Telephone:

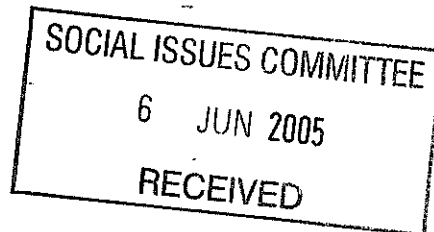
Date Received: 6/06/2005

Theme:

Summary

3 June 2005

The Standing Committee
of Social Issues
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you as a dentist who has worked in the NSW Public Oral Health system for the past 20 years. It has been very disappointing and disheartening to see the gradual decline in the oral health services that are able to be provided to the eligible population of NSW.

Patients often state they feel they cannot get a job or go for interviews due to the appearance of their teeth, where they have visible decayed and missing teeth. I have often seen a remarkable increase in self confidence in patients who have undergone a course of care and consequently can speak, eat and smile without pain or embarrassment.

Unfortunately, there are so many patients in this predicament that we are unable to help, as we do not have the resources to meet the over whelming demand.

Dental Officer positions in the public sector need to be made more attractive to recruit and retain sufficiently experienced dentists. The current award structure cannot compete with the salaries dentists earn in the private sector. This must be addressed.

Yours faithfully



Dr J Kenny