

Submission  
No 64

## INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Ms Yuko Mary Tazawa

**Telephone:**

**Date Received:** 1/06/2005

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**Theme:**

**Summary**

*Yuko Mary Tazawa*

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

1 11 2005

RECEIVED

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

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

*Dear Sir/Madam*

*As a citizen of NSW, and a practicing dentist, 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.*

*It is worrying to me that there is an increase in the extent of untreated dental disease. I am also aware that this in part reflects a shortage of trained dental clinicians, with significant shortfalls predicted by 2010. The workforce shortage appears to be due to a lack of sufficient training positions for dentists, as well as dental therapists, hygienists, technicians and prosthetists. It worries me that despite the fact that there are many young people who would love to enter these professions, and the significant community need, the necessary training positions have not been created. I also hear that the educational staff in the training institutions are working in difficult circumstances, and am worried that if this is not reversed the dental workforce will be further degraded.*

*The lack of adequate preventive dental programs and insufficient fluoridation worry me, as prevention of disease seems even more important in the absence of enough dental clinicians to treat existing dental disease.*

*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.*

*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,*



*Y.M.Tazawa  
PhD, B.Dent(Syd), B.Med.Sc(Hons)*