

Supplementary
Submission
No 60a

INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW

Organisation: Member for Murrumbidgee
Name: Mr Adrian Piccoli MP
Telephone: 69626644
Date Received: 6/06/2005

Theme:

Summary

ADRIAN PICCOLI MP
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBIDGEE

SHADOW MINISTER FOR MINERAL RESOURCES
SHADOW MINISTER ASSISTING IN NATURAL RESOURCES & ETHNIC AFFAIRS

Shadow Minister for Natural Resources
Shadow Minister for Lands



27 May 2005

The Secretary
Standing Committee of the Legislative Council
House of Representatives
Parliament of CANBERRA ACT 2600

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

6 JUN 2005

RECEIVED

Dear Sir,

I write to pass on my thoughts in relation to the current Inquiry into the Provision of Dental Services in NSW, focussing on several areas that are of concern to the local communities within my Electorate of Murrumbidgee.

Of main concern is the best way to attract dentists to the local area. I believe that money is not the answer rather the significant decline in the number of dentists graduating in NSW, needs to be addressed, with only 44 students graduating in 2002. Those that do graduate, establish practices in metropolitan areas where the financial prospects for their practice are more lucrative and they are in close proximity to where they have been residing. Attracting permanent dentists to rural areas must be addressed if we are to achieve any meaningful results.

The second area of concern is waiting lists and the potential allocation of mobile teams to areas of real need. I believe that the Government should encourage short "blitz" treatment availability through dentists who are willing to work for three-month periods in a rural area. Although not a long - term solution, such "blitz" teams will help alleviate the length of waiting lists, and help provide some urgently needed dental health care for those suffering through the unavailability of appointments. There are people in this electorate who are suffering ill health, or unable to eat properly because they are unable to access the Dental Clinic within a reasonable time frame.

The willingness of dentists to participate in schemes is another area that appears to be a problem. For example in Griffith and surrounding areas, we have no participating private dental services. According to the Greater Southern Area Health Service the number of dentists willing to participate in the NSW Pensioner Dentures scheme has reduced from 29 to 13 in the last 2 years.



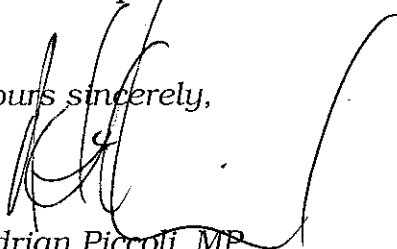
Parliament of NSW
Legislative Assembly

Electorate Office & Mail:
NSW Government Offices
104 Banna Avenue, Griffith NSW 2680
Phone: (02) 6962 6644
Fax: (02) 6962 7725
Murrumbidgee@parliament.nsw.gov.au
www.adrianpiccoli.com

With the existing services in place, the Dental Clinic is struggling to keep up with emergency treatment. There are no facilities or time to put preventative treatment care in place and therefore the number of people requiring emergency care increases.

I hope that the points raised in this submission will be fully considered. I would be pleased to discuss them in detail at any time if required.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Piccoli, MP
Member for Murrumbidgee
Shadow Minister for Natural Resources
Shadow Minister for Lands