

Submission
No 90

INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW

Organisation:

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Telephone:

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Theme:

Summary

23rd May 2005

Dental Services Inquiry
Social Issues Committee
Parliament House
Sydney

POST

Dear Sir/Madame

a) the quality of care is poor and worsening. A clinic staff member recently said "You are on a waiting list, but are unlikely ever to reach the top of it. If you are in pain, ring us". On 2 occasions when in pain I rang. The first time I was given an appointment over 1 month ahead, the 2nd time, several weeks. When I finally saw the dentist, all he would do was take pliers and pull the tooth. The only services supplied to adults are to pull teeth and do temporary fillings.

It is said that aborigines and illegal immigrants receive dental care of such a high quality that it is unimaginable to the average citizen. Reference "Behind the Razor Wire" by Sandy Thorne. It is well known that bad dental care results in poor overall health; digestion, energy levels, wellbeing, infection.

b) The demand for dental care is great, while the government spends vast sums on needless endeavours, in the same vein as lefthanded surf boards for women, designed by people on a government grant; or the funding of murals for the front of union halls. A dentist in a clinic said to me "I feel besieged by people with raging toothache, an endless queue of them".

d) The access to dental clinics is bad. I visited the local one, there was no one to speak with me. After a long time the dentist came out wearing a mask and rubber gloves and asked me to ring a 'phone number. The number in question is an answering machine. One needs a special modern 'phone to act as a computer to wait through a long and annoying lot of recorded voices, then to be often spoken to by a bored or rude person who refuses to give his name, who will not tell you where he is, perhaps somewhere 800 miles distant? If the person does make a fruitless appointment, there is no guarantee it will eventuate. If one shows up and is told there is no appointment, what can he say? "Dave gave me this booking"?

It took me a long time to realise that by pressing a certain button, one might be allowed to speak with the local clinic. This is a baffling system, whose main function seems to be to save the government money by keeping people from having good dental treatment.

f) Fluoride is a poison more toxic than lead and slightly less toxic than arsenic. Putting it in water supplies is forced mass medication. The theory behind it is "Eat lots of sugar, then kill the bacteria on your teeth with fluoride". It is a by product of aluminium manufacturing.

g) Currently the US "Free" trade agreement is said to cause a situation whereby this country will have pressure put on it to further dismantle its poor dental service, so that overseas drug companies can sell their stuff here at a greater profit. Medicare is seen as an impediment.

The dentist told me I could have false teeth in "only 6 month". The

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next time I spoke with the clinic, 3 months later, I was told "The wait has gone up to nearly a year". That week I noticed a headline in the paper "Woman waits 5 (five) years for false teeth".

Anyone who wishes to avoid toxic mercury amalgam fillings has a hard time being served. When the government needs men to fight and die in a war, it readily forces them into the army. When people need essential dental services, there is all the time in the world.

I would very much like to see the people responsible for this dreadful situation brought to justice.

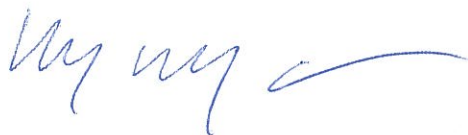
Thank you heartily to those who have caused this inquiry to come into being.

It is said that medical services in this country are likely to get worse. In the US, a western English speaking country; as is well known, injured people are commonly left unattended in a public hospital because they lack expensive private corporate health insurance. A friend of mine from the US told me an upper middle class friend of his in California pays \$125 per week for health care. (US \$).

I pray that God will guide your deliberations in your committee, and am glad to offer any other information which may be of service.

Thank you

Yours faithfully



Mr Vyvyan Stott