

Submission
No 99

INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW

Organisation:

Name: Ms Julie Osborne

Telephone:

Date Received: 2/06/2005

Theme:

Summary

24.5.05

26 MAY 2005

Dear Sir/Madam of the Council Inquiring into

N.S.W Dental Services.

I would like to see the existing childrens therapist services kept and expanded.

I am a mother of 8 children, who have all seen dental therapist during the past 20 years.

1. In regards to the quality of care received in the childrens dental services I have only praise for them. All have excellent care because they are specialised in small childrens mouths and dealing with mothers and children.

2. In relation to demand and waiting times, the school screening process picked up dental issues that I as a mother was unaware of and the early ~~detected~~ detection meant my childs teeth were seen to before the problem got too far. ~~The~~ Over the 20 years the waiting list has increased as the services have not increased with the population. Yet I have found the priority system adequate and emergencies have been

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seen to quickly.

3. Our income has not always allowed us to use private dentists and with gaps in cover in health insurance I have found the therapist accessible. This has allowed me to prioritise dental health as at present it is free.

4 Access to public dental services and rural and regional areas.

20 years ago at The Rock Central School my son was screened for dental treatment I was impressed with the caravan that came and the then new fillings with the white light. I have been thankful for the early discovery of problems in my children's teeth through the public school screening of children and the excellent follow up with work needed.

5. In regards to the workforce and training of dental specialists I am appalled to hear of the closure of the Westmed training facility. Over 20 years the staff should have increased not decreased!

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6. My views on the preventative dental treatments and initiatives are that we cannot rely on fluoridation as 1/2 our Central Coast (Gosford shire) is not fluoridized. Also with the increased use of bottled, spring water and tank water we are decreasing in fluoridation.

The dental therapist have over my years with them taught myself and my children personal habits that have helped in my families dental health. I recommend that this 1 on 1 frontline approach still be used.

7 And lastly I would like to see the children services expanded and highly valued as the future generations come. Please put more money into these services they have been and are great.
Julie Osborne -