

Submission  
No 197

## INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Mr Marcello Aliberti

**Telephone:**

**Date Received:** 21/06/2005

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**Theme:**

**Summary**

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

21 JUN 2005

RECEIVED

10 June, 2005.

To the "Standing Committee on Social Issues"  
Legislative Council, Parliament House  
Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000 NSW.

Re: "The Inquiry by the Standing Committee on Social Issues on Dental Health".

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am an 80 years old disabled man, I have been issued by Centrelink the Commonwealth Department for Community Services the Age Pensioner Concession Card for the State of NSW. I believe that Hospitals in NSW abusively, and unlawfully threaten the concession as a permit to utilize aged people for the training of students, subjecting us to pain and complications. This makes us victims to persecutions for the long extended delays between treatments. I am talking of what I had to contend with, compelled to chew food with the remaining teeth pressing directly on the opposite sore gums. I have lived, and experienced this inhuman cruelty for over one year instead of a couple of days. At the hands of Westmead Center for Oral Health. This is torture

I believe a sore tooth is an undisputed emergency and must be treated as such without delay. I was sent there by my family practitioner Dr. Aloise Babicka, but because I did not have an appointment I was asked to get a referral from my doctor to be eligible to be listed on the waiting list, hence the infection spread and facial swelling occurred. Only then was my tooth extracted. Because of the complications through the spread of infections I ended by losing all the incisors, upper teeth, hence this impeded my ability to eat properly for over a year. I have been victimized, used as a guinea pig for the training of several dental students.

It's time a proper investigation took place to view the matter I am raising, and put an end to this terrible cruelty. Enclosed please find copies of my letter of complaint which portrays my unfortunate experience to the Hon. Louise Marcus MP, Federal Member for Greenway, her letter of representation to the Hon. Morris Iemma MP, Minister for Health for NSW, his reply through Ms. Cherie Burton MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, that clearly confirms what I have stated above. We are used as "Cavies" without genuine continual supervision, which is limited to a preliminary instruction on what to do to the patient, and her return to check after the student has finished, this is all the basic supervision.

The reality is, the aged have become the unwary victims of a systematic recruitment to serve as cavies for the students to train on us. I hope that soon my turn as a guinea pig has come to an end. Presently I am finally waiting for the denture to be made to resume eating properly. Hopefully your enquiry will help us both, our Hospitals in having more Clinicians, and the aged treated as humans by qualified dentists, and not by a multitude of students. Previously we were better off, we had experienced dentist near our homes in our local Hospitals. Now we are forced to travel far from our residences and risk our life in doing it in heavy traffic.

I am also enclosing copy of a letter I wrote in the past for a similar incident to The Hon. Carmen Laurence MP, the then Federal Minister for Health, it describes how through Medical Negligence I lost my lung because the hospital permitted a Papua New Guinea novice student doctor to perform in 3 subsequent needle biopsy on my left lung and failed in the attempt. I ended with a collapsed lung that was later surgically removed, and made me a permanent disabled man. Also a copy of her reply that may interest you and be of help in your present enquiry, as she clearly describes the finding of the Federal investigations taken in several Hospitals. I am writing to let you be well versed to intervene and find a speedy resolution to end our Hospital deficiency. What is happening is real, it's indisputable truth, and it has been written revealed and exposed by the Media in daily and local papers, in the news, on the TV reportages of films.

As instructed by Ms. Cherie Burton MP. Parliament Secretary for Health, I personally spoke to Dr. Josephine Kenny, Area Clinical Director, Sydney West Area Health Services, in our conversation I was astonished and surprised to find out there are only 6 qualified Dentists servicing the Westmead Centre for Oral Health, this is perhaps the reason way clinicians are allowing long delays to patients, hence causing unnecessary ordeal and pain to aged patients victims for the lack of dentists in our Dental Hospitals. Please help us and improve our Hospitals to betterment.

I sincerely thank you,



Marcello Aliberti J P.

c.c. The Hon. Louise Markus MP. Federal Member for Greenway.

c.c. Dr. Josephine Kenny, Area Clinical Director, Sydney West Area Health Service.