

Submission
No 47

INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW

Organisation:

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Theme:

Summary

Submission 47 Dental Services in NSW

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Submission

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Attachments

SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW.

We are the parents of Brianne Mary BARTOS, Dental Therapist, and we present this submission in support of the NSW Dental Therapists Association Inc. because we know that their work is of vital importance for the future health of today's Australian young children.

Brianne has worked as a Dental Therapist in the Public Health System for 17 years. After studies in Hobart, Tasmania, she worked in clinics in the Australian Capital Territory, and in East Arnhem Land, Northern Territory.

She took time off when she became a mother and, when her sons were settled at school, she returned to her career after re-training in Westmead, NSW. Since then she has worked here on the Central Coast at Clinics in The Entrance, Toukley, Woy Woy and the Aboriginal clinic at Wyong.

When staffing levels permitted, Brianne visited most Central Coast schools to lecture on Dental Health and is largely responsible for the production of a book setting out a Dental Health teaching program for Primary Schools' teachers and students. This book meets the requirements of the PDHPE programme and a vast amount of the work for the book was done in Brianne's own time.

As you will gather from this, Brianne is committed to her work despite the difficulties she, and fellow therapists, regularly encounter.

She deals frequently with the children of parents who cannot afford private dentists' fees. Some parents are aggressive, angry, poorly educated and/or embarrassed. They neglect to keep appointments, demand immediate treatment, verbally abuse and threaten the therapist and clinic staff. This is a frightening situation for the women concerned, and for us as parents.

As a Dental Therapist, Brianne does the following procedures:- examinations and diagnosis, cleaning, X-rays, fillings, injections and extractions. She promotes dental health to each child and accompanying parent.

Brianne has received praise and references from dentists of the private sector and the Public Health

Service with whom she has worked, for her professionalism, intellect and manner in handling children and parents.

Brianne is paid less than \$25 per hour. If she worked interstate, she would receive considerably more.

We are dismayed to learn of the discriminatory attitude of some private-practice dentists towards Dental Therapists. We can only assume this indicates a hidden agenda which we trust your inquiry will bring to light and correctly address.

We thank you for reading this submission.