

INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW

Organisation:

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Date Received: 3/06/2005

Theme:

Summary

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

3 JUN 2005

RECEIVED

The Standing Committee On Social Issues
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie St. Sydney, NSW 2000

RE: The Inquiry into Dental Health

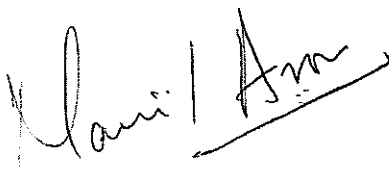
Dear Sir/Madam

I am a resident of NSW and have recently become aware of the Upper House Inquiry into oral health. I am writing to express my concerns on certain issues that I perceive are important in addressing the appalling condition of our dental health services. Firstly, NSW suffers from a chronic shortage of dentists. This is partly due to the small number of dentists being trained at the University of Sydney. The restricted number of openings in the dental training course is largely due to the shortage in dental academic staff. I personally know five dentists with PhDs who have been unable to find suitable academic positions due to the shortage in funding. Without adequate funding to recruit trained dental academics, I do not see the current shortage of dentists being resolved.

The second issue that I wish to raise is that of funding. The expenditure of oral health services, research and education appears to be far from adequate. With an ageing Australian population, can we really afford to let dental disease reach epidemic proportions? It is well known that dental health affects our ability to maintain general health. With this in mind, it would be far more cost effective to invest in prevention and early interception. However, little seems to be done in this regard.

I am hopeful that the current inquiry will in a positive change.

Sincerely



Manish Arora