

Submission
No 182

INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW

Organisation:

Name: Mr Malcolm Bourne

Telephone:

Date Received: 14/06/2005

Theme:

Summary

12 June 2005

The Standing Committee on Social Issues
Legislative Council
NSW Parliament
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sirs

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

I have long been concerned about the declining state of dental health, service and education in New South Wales and welcome the Upper House Inquiry into this area of health care.

I am aware that many people suffer significant pain and disability from poor dental health and I am most concerned about the lack of adequate resources to cope with this.

There is an increasing level of untreated dental disease and the connection between poor dental and general health is well recorded. Of great concern is the shortage of trained dental clinicians with significant shortfalls predicted by 2010. I hear that the educational staff in training institutions are working in difficult circumstances and are worried that if this is not reversed that the dental workforce will be degraded even further.

I am most concerned that public dental services are patchy with great variations of access for the eligible population. Also people living in rural areas are often unable to find a dentist.

I am also concerned that despite there being many internal and external reports of these problems to State and Federal governments that very little seems to have been done and of the increase of about one billion dollars for NSW Health in the recent budget that that there is no new funding for dental health.

I look forward to the current inquiry resulting in the State government accepting that action is taken to overhaul and bring up to date the provision for dental health in the community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Malcolm Bourne". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Malcolm Bourne".

Malcolm Bourne