

INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW

Organisation: City of Broken Hill
Name: Councillor Ron Page
Position: Mayor
Telephone: 02 8080 2201
Date Received: 24/05/2005

Theme:

Summary



INCORPORATED A MUNICIPALITY 1888
PROCLAIMED A CITY 1907

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE,
BROKEN HILL, N.S.W. 2880.**



34271 - B9/12, A8/9
RP:JE

May 18, 2005

The Director
Standing Committee on Social Issues
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam,

Inquiry into NSW Dental Services

At its meeting held April 27, 2005 Council resolved to lodge a written submission to the Legislative Council Inquiry into New South Wales Dental Services.

Council is pleased to have the opportunity to advise of the local experience and comment to the Legislative Council Inquiry. Over recent years Broken Hill has experienced severe deficiencies in the provision of public dental services available to the community, both in respect of emergency and denture services, with some patients waiting as long as a year to receive appropriate services. Due to the isolation of Broken Hill, it is not practical to expect patients to travel to other centres such as Adelaide or Dubbo to receive public dental services that should be considered a basic necessity for a community the size of Broken Hill.

I am pleased to advise there has been an improvement in emergency public dental services in Broken Hill, but the local community has had to fight long and hard for these improvements and would like to ensure that the same circumstances do not arise again in the future. A reduction in waiting lists for appointments for denture services has only been very recent.

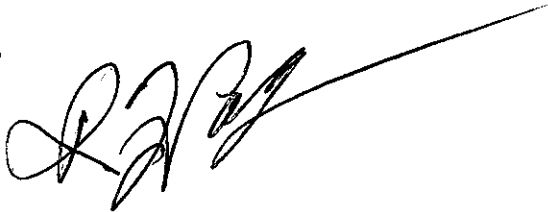
The increases in services provided were partly achieved through Councils many letters to the State and Federal Governments, including the Local Members of Parliament. Some of the initiatives used to alleviate the problems were the provision of public dental services by private practitioners and recently the local health service has made arrangements for two graduate dentists to provide additional services at the Broken Hill Hospital.

In February of this year Council also submitted a motion to the conference of the Western Division of the Shires Association of NSW, held in Hay, requesting that more government funding be made available for public dental services in Western NSW. This motion was carried and will be now submitted to the Shires Association of NSW conference to be held in Sydney 6 - 8 June, 2005.

Council has taken this opportunity to point out the problems experienced locally regarding public dental services and fully supports any inquiry that will ensure that the services provided are kept at an acceptable level and that Broken Hill and other communities do not have to experience such deficiencies in the future,

I look forward to the Committees report in March, 2006.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Page', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

COUNCILLOR RON PAGE
MAYOR