

Submission by [REDACTED]-25 June 2024

1. A preferred provider scheme takes autonomy away from the dentists. 2. There has been no information provided about the proposed fee schedules. How will the fees be managed from year to year? Will the fees increase according to CPI? Many preferred provider schemes do not increase their fees to match CPI which leaves the practitioners with less and less income while having to deal with ever increasing wages and running costs. 3. "Metric reports" run the risk of steering dental practitioners towards meeting targets rather than providing the appropriate care for their patients. 4. It becomes concerning when a health fund proposes methods for service providers to counteract the loss of income due to the proposed lower fees. St Lukes suggests that practitioners consider innovative service delivery methods or providing a wider variety of services to help compensate for loss of income. It seems like St Lukes is recommending practitioners resort to overservicing to counteract the lower fees proposed by this scheme. Is this really in the best interest of the patients? 5. The average family owned dental practice does not have the capital to compete or keep up with a large corporation like St Lukes for advertising, promotions, lower fee schedules, etc.