



## **Third Party, Dental Schedules & Affiliates Committee Report**

February 2023

Chair: Dr Wendy Gill

Committee Members: Dr Rachel Garraway, Dr Andre Bendyk (retiring from this committee) and Dr Susan Wise

ANZAP Council as a whole has been working hard on a host of initiatives that will be revealed through our Congress Meeting.

The Third Party and Schedules Committee will be undergoing some significant restructuring as part of ANZAP's future planning. We have a number of goals to work towards over the next 5 years and I look forward to hearing your feedback as we move into this next phase.

A few important issues from 2022. The edition of the Australian Schedule and Dental Services and Glossary was published without delving into providing examples. This is an area that our Committee will be working on to help provide the ADA with a clearer outline of modern periodontal practice and how the item numbers should/could reflect managing periodontitis in dental practice. It is unfortunate that our submission for additional item numbers was not adopted however communication has not been ideal from all perspectives and with a new ADA Federal team, we look forward to a better relationship.

A major event occurred in November 2022 where BUPA declined rebates on item number 251 with no announcement and no communication with any party. The ADA were also not aware. It was a beautiful example of how our ANZAP community works to strongly lobby both the ADA and BUPA very quickly and in a multi-pronged, yet united way. Use of some of our 'non-official' communication groups such as state-wide WhatsApp and our Facebook chat allowed the news to be disseminated as soon as an ANZAP member became aware. BUPA reversed the decision immediately.

It is interesting that my response from BUPA was that it was a clerical error. It is also interesting that the health funds do take into account the response from stakeholders. We have a stronger voice than we may think, however we need to work with the ADA and other stakeholders to improve the support for periodontal care and particularly for periodontal care by Periodontists.

To follow up from 2021: there has been no correspondence or concerns raised with the Committee regarding the removal of the structured professional relationship between dentists and dental hygienists/therapists/OHTs to date.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr Andre Bendyk for his contributions as he moves into Council. I also deeply thank Drs Rachel Garraway and Susan Wise for their ongoing support and contributions. I look forward to welcoming new Committee members into 2023/24 as our Committee expands its roles and duties.

Members are welcome to contact the Committee on any issues.

Dr Wendy Gill

Chairman - Third Party and Dental Schedules & Affiliates Committee