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PHI or PH Lie! Private Healthcare Australia telling lots of ‘furphys’

Private Healthcare Australia is either really bad at mathematics or it is living in a bubble, claims the Australian Dental Association (ADA).

“Comments made by Dr Rachel David, CEO of Private Healthcare Australia (PHA), on Sky Business News yesterday, demonstrate the complete lack of reality that is being promulgated by private health insurers and their peak body,” stated Dr Hugo Sachs, ADA Federal President. “Dr David should be called to account for the misleading statements made in the interview with Ms Dalley yesterday so that consumers know exactly how they are being ripped off by some health insurance products”.

Dr David is quoted as saying that private health insurance is paying for the majority of dental care that occurs in Australia; data reported by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) states otherwise.

“This is completely incorrect,” added Dr Sachs. “AIHW’s *Health Expenditure Australia 2014-15* states that individuals contribute 58% toward the cost of dental expenditure with private health insurers offering only 18.1%”.

The APRA reports on private health insurance indicate that the in the last four years benefits per dental service have only increased by \$1.00 per service in that four years span and in fact, last year the figure dropped by \$1.00.

“This is just one more misleading statement from the peak body for private health insurers attempting to shift attention away from their own profits and toward health providers and consumers”.

PHA have repeatedly blamed providers for the increase in premiums which, the ADA claims is also a falsehood. If it were true, rebates would be increasing at the same rate as premiums. The ADA believes it’s time for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to investigate such claims.

“It’s time for consumers and providers to start talking about other ways to fund their health care which will put consumers back in the driving seat,” concluded Dr Sachs.

The ADA calls on Dr David to stop the gratuitous use of data and tell the real story. How much profit did the big two private health insurers make last year?

Interviews available with ADA President, Dr Hugo Sachs

-  www.facebook.com/AustralianDentalAssociation
-  www.facebook.com/HealthyTeethAustralia
-  [@Aus_Dental](https://twitter.com/Aus_Dental)

Reference:

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/health-welfare-expenditure/health-expenditure-australia-2014-15/contents/table-of-contents>