



SADA

THE SOUTH AFRICAN
DENTAL ASSOCIATION

PRESS RELEASE

TITLE:

A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION (SADA) FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH DR CRISP TO DISCUSS HIS VIEWS WHICH HAD BEEN AIRED DURING HIS INTERVIEW WITH CARTE BLANCHE AND THEREBY BROUGHT THE DENTAL PROFESSION INTO DISREPUTE

STATEMENT:

SADA and Dr Crisp agree on material facts following misleading Carte Blanche episode

PARKTOWN, JOHANNESBURG – 15 October 2019

The South African Dental Association (SADA) would like to thank Dr Nicholas Crisp for meeting with the association and clarifying comments he made on Carte Blanche on 1 September, 2019, were not a true reflection of his statements as important parts of his interview were not included in the episode.

SADA maintains that the episode allowed for the airing of a severely edited version which misrepresented the dental profession and brought the industry into disrepute. However, on clarifying the details around his views, and affirming that not all of his interview was aired, that the context behind his example of dentistry had been edited out, Dr Crisp and SADA are in agreement about the material facts pertaining to his example.

During the interview that was aired, Dr Crisp alluded to a dental quote provided to a relative. The quote of R33,000 was for “a dental procedure” including “removing two teeth and doing a whole list of itemised things”. After seeking advice from a trusted friend in the profession, he says “the procedure was done, finished, for R1,800”.

The episode created the impression that both quotes were from general practice dentists. However, in the discussion with SADA, Dr Crisp clarified that, in fact, the one quotation was from a general practitioner dentist and the other from a Specialist Periodontist.

By providing context to the example he used, it has become clear that the point Dr Crisp was attempting to illustrate was not fee-for-service versus outcomes-based-payments, which formed the basis of SADA’s challenge to the interview, but rather the experience that missing referral pathways drives costs.

It is irrefutable that specialist fees should not be compared to general practitioner dentist fees. Specialists are trained to plan treatment in a far more comprehensive manner than general practitioner dentists, taking into account long-term rehabilitation of the patient.

In the interview aired on Carte Blanche, the general practitioner quotation was for the immediate treatment to solve the patient's problem, while the specialist quote included additional procedures in preparation for implant placement and restoration of the missing teeth.

It is unclear whether the various treatment options were discussed with the patient prior to supplying the quotation.

SADA recommends that when a practitioner presents a treatment plan, and obtains informed consent to treat, all treatment options, their benefits and risks, and the financial implications of each option should be discussed with the patient.

SADA would like to thank Dr Crisp for taking the time to discuss the Carte Blanche episode and clarify points of contention. It is unfortunate that the episode was incomplete and create an incorrect understanding and perceptions in the minds of views about dentistry as a whole, but we are satisfied that the material facts paint a far more holistic picture than the misleading interview that was aired.

#Ends

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About SADA:

The leading professional industry membership body for dentistry in Southern Africa, the South African Dental Association (SADA) represents over 80% of registered dentists in the country's private and public sectors. Membership is open to industry professionals from dental students to retired dentists.

The Association is committed and engaged in processes relating to setting industry standards and formulating policies. Learn more about us at <http://www.sada.co.za>

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