

### Bulk-bill doctor guilty SMH

Dr John Phillip Rolleston, of Hastings Road, Warrawee, was found guilty yesterday by a District Court jury on 12 counts of issuing documents with false particulars by bulk-billing patients for services they did not receive. The Crown submitted that eight terminally ill patients had died on the day Dr Rolleston claimed to have provided them with medical services. Judge Bell, who will hear pre-sentence submissions today, allowed Rolleston's bail to continue.

## Doctor is fined \$17,000 for health claim fraud

By BEN BRENNER

North Shore doctor was sentenced to one year's jail and a total of \$17,000 in the District Court yesterday after a jury found him guilty on 12 counts of medical fraud.

The sentence was effectively suspended provided that the doctor agrees not to commit further offences for five years and assures the court that he will pay his fines in six months.

On March 27 a jury found John Phillip Rolleston, of Hastings Road, Warrawee, guilty on 12 counts of issuing, making or sending documents and statements that were false in a material particular and were capable of being used as a claim for payment under the Health Insurance Act. In sentencing Rolleston yesterday, Judge Bell said it was "quite clear that on occasions he [Rolles-

ton] had not provided the service he claimed to have provided.

"I cannot accept that these are 12 isolated incidents," he said, adding: "He was engaged in a deliberate, continuing process of defrauding the Government and the health fund."

"I simply do not have the evidence to say that his conduct was anything more than complete as he said."

He said that Rolleston was struggling to maintain himself in the industry to which he had been attracted.

Rolleston was fined \$9,000 for seven of the charges and \$8,000 for the remaining five. He had already paid more than \$100,000 in legal expenses.

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