

Dear sir, I have been a practitioner in the field of Clinical Psychology for over 28 years and I write to you with concerns associated to the possibility of the reduction of sessions for the patients that I see under medicare.

I currently practice in Perth WA. The practice is predominantly made up of adult individuals who have an addiction to drugs. The average amount of years that these individuals have been doing drugs (mostly heroine) is 22 years. They have been involved in major crimes to support their habits (bank robbery, B &E's, auto theft, prostitution and armed robbery). I see them in rehab settings and when they have progressed to a stable physical and emotional status in my rooms in Wembley.

Firstly, only Clinical Psychologists are uniquely trained to work with these individuals and secondly, given the pathology and years of entrenched psychological addiction (not to mention physical addiction) to address their needs in less than 18 sessions per annum is difficult. To reduce these sessions to the numbers that are being suggested is ludicrous.

I thank you for the opportunity to write to you regarding this matter.

Kevin Pyle, Ph.D.