

I am sending this comment with regard to the two-tiered Medicare rebate system for psychologists. There are comments, coming mostly from the Australian Association of Psychologists, that Clinical Psychologists with six or seven years of training are not more competent to deliver clinical services than Psychologists with four years of training. If this was true, then we should abolish further training in psychology after completing a four-year course.

Psychologists are general practitioners in psychology, and further courses (masters and doctoral) enable them to practice in specialised areas (forensic, clinical, neuro-psychological...). As Specialists in medicine have higher rates than General Practitioners, Specialised Psychologists should also have higher rates than Psychologists for their services.

In my forty-year clinical practice, I have supervised hundreds of Psychologists and Clinical Psychologists and have seen clear differences in the levels of competencies between these two categories of professionals in favour of Clinical Psychologists.

Kind regards,

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