

Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object vigorously to the cuts to psychology services in the recent Federal budget. I have been accessing the services of Robyn Rowe, Clinical Psychologist in Moorabbin, for the past two years.

I am a pensioner and I have been very pleased that my GP referred me to Ms Rowe, who has the expertise to treat my condition within the Better Access Program. I have found the sessions to be most useful since I have been able to learn various strategies that help me in my daily life. I think that a cutback in the number of sessions per year will severely jeopardise my opportunity to access appropriate treatment and therefore it is possible that setbacks may occur.

The cuts will mean that my copayment will double and I certainly will not be able to afford to continue making appointments for these sessions. I will not be able to pay the gap but will not be bulk billed. I would therefore be forced to discontinue Ms Rowe's services and will not have her support for my condition. I live on my own and very much appreciate having a well qualified psychologist to talk to once a month.

I ask that your committee seriously review this budget decision to cut funds to the Better Access Program and recommend instead that the status quo remain. In this way I will be able to continue my regular treatment which I need to maintain my quality of life in my senior years.

With regards,

Yours faithfully, ,