

11 November 2011

Email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senate Inquiry,

Senate Inquiry into Mental Health

I would like to address the following terms of reference for the senate inquiry on the Commonwealth Funding and Administration of Mental Health Services.

Term of Reference (b iv): The impact of changes to the number of allied mental health treatment services for patients with mild or moderate mental illness under the Medicare Benefits Schedule:

My daughter has been diagnosed with OCD and her condition has been helped by seeing a psychologist on a fortnightly basis. 12 sessions per annum was not enough so reducing it to 10 is the worst possible outcome.

Experts believe that by 2020 more people will visit their GP for a mental health problem than for any other illness. This government is taking us backwards compared to other OECD countries.

Term of Reference (e i): The two-tiered Medicare rebate system for psychologists:

My husband and I pay \$145 each time our daughter sees her psychologist. We will be out of pocket about \$1500 p.a. after receiving the Medicare rebate. By reducing the rebate to \$80 will mean many families will have to cut back on the number of visits their partner/child can meet with their psychologist.

Yours sincerely