

I am writing to you as i am really concerned about the proposed changes in the new budget to reduce the number of sessions Australians can access under medicare. I am a clinical psychologist who has treated many children, adolescents and adults who desperately needed this service, who did not come under the criteria of being acutely mentally ill but needed mental health input...

It was such a visionary thing of the government to do - it made the population healthier - i can not see how the budget will actually attend to people better with your proposed changes, especially as there is a total gap in services for 4 years after 1/11/11?

Can you not leave the entitlements for children? who can't afford to pay as they don't have an income?

Can you not leave them for pensioners or centrelink recipients who have no spare money? Are there not ways to qualify this? Eg stop GP rebates and let people access Psychologists without a MHP thus saving at least 50% of funding and people get the services they need.

I was so happy to have a female prime minister, I am so saddened by your parties budget proposal, please have another look at what you are doing to the most needy. You have not had good advice on this one. looking forward to your reply.

Vera Auerbach
Clinical Psychologist & Principal