



2<sup>nd</sup> Aug 2011

To whom it may Concern,

The Clinical Counsellors Association was established over a decade ago to provide a bridge between the Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia (PACFA) and the Australian Counselling Association (ACA). It remains to this day the only Association to belong to both these professional peak bodies, and as such puts us in a unique position to comment on matters pertaining to the profession. All our members satisfy the high criteria of both bodies, have membership qualifications of Registered (for PACFA) and Level 3 or 4 (for ACA), and have combined experience in the profession of hundreds of years.

We have already recorded our wholehearted endorsement of the model put forward by Jones and Armstrong as it not only accurately portrays a vision of the profession that our membership subscribes to but it also provides a roadmap of how to get there.

We would like now to endorse the ACA submission to the Inquiry by the Senate Community Affairs Committee into Commonwealth funding and administration of Mental Health services.

Their view that "people affected by mental health problems and illnesses, families and carers, need Commonwealth, State and Territory governments and mental health professionals to work together to ensure that people living with mental health challenges have easy access to professionals with the training and expertise most relevant to their needs" is one that my association maintains must be held in focus when approaching this issue.

We also believe that the path laid out in their submission will help to transform the public policy and funding approach to primary mental health services, of both sides of the political divide. As both sides appear to see the need "to foster and operate primary mental health services of the best possible quality, as directly relevant to clients as possible, and as cost-effective to payers" we trust that real advances can now be made in this regard. Like the ACA we are of the opinion that, "client need should determine the best mode and disciplines(s) of care, not funding sources".

Should you wish any further information we are only too happy to cooperate in any way that we can.

Yours Faithfully,

**Adrian Hellwig MBus (Comm), B Theol, Dip Couns, JP, FACA, PACFA Delegate, CCA President**