

Submission to:

Commonwealth Funding and Administration of Mental Health Services

I respectfully make this submission to the committee considering the Commonwealth funding and administration of mental health services in relation to the terms of reference (i) the two-tiered Medicare rebate system for psychologists.

I contend that the current two-tier system should remain as it delineates and recognises the lower-level general psychology support from the more specialised clinical psychology intervention and treatments.

Clinical psychologists are highly trained to provide specialised advanced evidence-based practice of mental health services to those in the community presenting with the most complex and severe presentations. In this regard, clinical psychologists should be treated as psychiatrists are under Medicare as both independently diagnose and treat these client cohorts within the core business of their professional practices.

Clinical psychology is the only profession, apart from psychiatry, whose entire accredited and integrated postgraduate training is specifically in the field of lifespan and advanced evidence-based psychopathology, assessment, diagnosis, case formulation, psychotherapy, evaluation and research across the full range of severity and complexity.

The Medicare rebate system needs to continue to recognise this advanced specialised psychology training and skill level and its related clinical efficiency and effectiveness.

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