

Andrew Lindsay
Registered Psychologist

To the Commission.

I am writing as a general psychologist who has completed the 4 year psychology degree and 2 year supervised practice program. In addition, I have completed a 5 years masters level training in a psychotherapy model which is not currently taught within Australian Universities.

I have been in private practice as a psychotherapist and psychologist for nearly 10 years. Since the Medicare rebate has been available I have had a noticeable increase in both client numbers and severity of difficulties.

I have been working at the _____ for 4 years. This is one of Brisbane's oldest counselling centre's and has several psychologists practicing from here. Many GP's refer their patients here under Better Access referrals.

Reductions to the current Medicare rebate for mental health support would have a severe impact on the ability for many clients to access this support and therefore have a severe impact on the effective management of mental health in the community.

I believe there has been solid evidence from the governments own independent study that the Better Access initiative has been highly successful and is targeting the people who need it.

Other initiatives such as the Mental Health Professionals Support Network have also been very effective in coordinating services to support people with mental health issues. At this time where we have been decentralising and de-institutionalising the mental health system I strongly believe it is essential and morally imperative to be maintaining and strengthening what appears to be an effective system.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Lindsay