

Community Affairs, Committee (SEN)

Dear Sir/Madam

I became a registered psychologist in order to follow my passion and work with gifted children and their parents, a minority group within our society that receives no funding or help, even in the case of confused first parents. As there are not very many gifted children (bell curve) especially in the area where I practice (lower Blue Mountains), I only see clients on the weekends, and have a day job in the other area of my expertise, children's services for young children.

I have just been made aware that I am no longer an endorsed psychologist within the new system, although I have been practicing since 2004, and am currently undertaking a PhD in psychology. I cannot see the logic of this move, and implore the Senate to right this wrong.

As an additional issue I would like to point out that as I only work in a part time capacity as psychologist in a very specialised field, I should not have to accumulate the same amount of PD points as psychologists who work full time, although currently I have far more points than I need. Please consider the plight of part time psychologists who do important work but cannot be expected to go to the expense of money and time to accumulate the same amount of PD points as a full time psychologist. The changes that have taken place

- a two tier psychology system (clinical and non-clinical)
- endorsed or not endorsed psychologists
- compulsory PD points provided by clinical psychologists only, and regardless of whether a psychologist works part- or full time

are neither to the benefit of clients nor of psychologists. I trust that your enquiry will right all these wrongs in the state of mental health providers.

Kind Regards

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