

Dear Senate,

Please excuse the briefness of my response.

I am a General Psychologist currently studying at Masters Level - after being fully registered for the past twelve years. I have been in private practice for the past six years and cannot stress enough how valuable the Medicare rebate and session structure to date has been to my clients. The current system allows around 70% of the children, young people and adults who currently access the service to do so...these are people on low incomes, single parent families often with chronic mental health difficulties that have been unaddressed for extensive periods. These people would NOT access a psychological service were it not for the rebate. They often require 12-15 sessions for lasting changes.

Regarding the two-tier system...I believe there are other ways of the government saving money rather than reducing the professionalism of the psychological field...such as make the criteria for accessing the Medicare scheme more stringent and fine tuning entry requirements to the initiative.

Again, apologies for my briefness...I felt I had to make comment before this weekend and am between clients at present.

Please consider other ways of reducing the cost to the government than reducing sessions and abolishing the two tier system.

Kind Regards,

Tamara Treichel

Psychologist