Members of the committe, I respectfully submit the following information to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into the Government's funding and administration of mental health services in Australia.

I am a psychologist who has been working for 20 years, mainly in clinical psychology settings both in Australia and in the United Kingdom. My submission to the inquiry is that you should consider extending the period of 'grandfathering' of non-clinical psychologists into the new system of endorsement for clinical psychologists. The 'grandfathering' of GPs who needed to attain vocational registration took years; while psychologists have been given very little time. In my own case, if I had applied before September 2010, I believe that I would have been given a bridging program which would have allowed me to move towards endorsed status. Unfortunately I did not get my paperwork into the APS clinical college before that date as I was grieving the sudden an unexpected death of my 3 year old daughter, and was (understandably) not paying attention to the changes going on with AHPRA and psychology registration. I have applied to AHPRA for endorsement, however, I was unsuccessful. My only option, it seems, is to complete a Clinical Masters or Doctoral program. The irony of this situation is that I teach within one of the authorised masters programs and have been supervising clinical psychologists at the Austin Hospital's mental health program (where I also work) for the past 10 years.

I believe this lack of 'grandfathering' means that the profession and patients are missing out on having access to experienced practitioners who have not been able to attain endorsed status, but could with a reasonable bridging program. Experienced practitioners like myself are leaving the profession because their skills and experience are not recognised within the two tier system, and there is now no opportunity for 'grandfathering' and moving towards endorsement.

I am happy to provide more details as required.

Yours sincerely,