

5 August 2011
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Re: Government proposal to cut the 'Better Access to Mental Health Initiative' to 10 sessions

"It is my aspiration that health finally will be seen not as a blessing to be wished for, but as a human right to be fought for."

Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan

As a provisional psychologist, I would like to invite the Senate Inquiry to consider the following question: do persons suffering from a mental illness have a basic human right to sufficient mental health care?

If one answered yes to the above question, one should also ask oneself: how am I protecting the human rights of persons with serious mental health problems?

Beneath the veneers of this issue lies a moral question, and although we cannot answer this question without including political and economical contexts, let us not lose sight of the operative question.

Sincerely,

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