

I have strong concerns about the following issues:

* Although I have a Masters Degree in Psychology achieved in 1991 in [REDACTED], plus 80 hours of supervision at [REDACTED] thus satisfying the then South Australian Psych Board of my capacity for clinical psychological practice, I have not been endorsed under the new system.

I continue to receive a lower rebate from Medicare seemingly for the above reasons.

Is this because I chose not to join the APS at the time?

I was not informed that it was mandatory to do this or that I would at some stage be disadvantaged indeed, disabled, in my work as psychologist. Instead it seemed more appropriate to me to belong to a local professional organisation, the Institute of Private Practising Psychologists (IPPP) in South Australia.

Now I am being forced into spending time and a lot of money to be registered with the APS or else be cast into an inferior status where my livelihood is threatened. Why should I be placed in this position?

* I was **absolutely outraged** to discover last week, quite by chance through casual discussion with a colleague who is a member of the APS, that there are now new requirements in place for me to fulfil, in order to even continue to be registered as a Medicare provider.

When was I to be informed officially, I wonder?

No word from Medicare itself..... from whom I would have expected such vital information. Nothing from AHPRA .

Only the selected few registered with the APS it would appear.

I am completely appalled by what has happened. This is a First World country where one expects order and reason to prevail. Over-regulation can become a curse, as this debacle has proved. Obviously there are many lessons to be learned and the most important would be for officials to take changes one step at a time.

I hope these comments will have a role in saving the psychological profession from what I see as ruinous consequences.

Sincerely