

To whom it may concern,

RE: Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee inquiry into Commonwealth Funding and Administration of Mental Health Services *"The Senate Community Affairs Committee has concluded that there are no grounds for the two-tiered Medicare rebate system for psychologists and recommends the single lower rate for all psychologists including clinical psychologists....."*

I completely disagree with the above inquiry finding, as the two tiered system acts as financial incentive for psychologists to attain the highest possible qualifications and thereby provide scientifically proven treatment (i.e. Masters in Clinical Psychology).

Without which the following would occur:

- Less qualified psychologists training others
- Less qualified psychologists
- Less scientifically proven techniques offered to patients
- Less treatment outcomes
- Greater cost to healthcare system as mental illness goes untreated/not adequately treated
- Less psychologists treating patients privately- thereby greater burden on public health system

It needs to be noted, that clinical psychologists provide scientifically proven treatment that is found to be equally as effective as pharmacological treatments by psychiatrists, (who incidentally attract far higher rebates).

Thank you,

Clinical Psychologist