

28th July 2011

Dear Senate Inquiry,

I would like to address the following terms of reference for the senate inquiry on the Commonwealth Funding and Administration of Mental Health Services

Term of Reference (b iv): The impact of changes to the number of allied mental health treatment services for patients with mild or moderate mental illness under the Medicare Benefits Schedule

Term of Reference (e i): The two-tiered Medicare rebate system for psychologists

If changes are made to the number of treatments allowed & the rebate provided, it won't be good. At present I am able to go to a professional Clinical Psychologist because there is a rebate! If I had to pay the full amount I would have to reconsider the visits as I have regular bills like mortgage, electricity etc and I guess they come first ALTHOUGH my mental health is more important for me in the day to day dealings with everything!

I hope this inquiry reconsiders the changes as Mental Health is very important, not just to me but to everyone and we should all have access to the best!

Kind Regards