

4th August 2011

Attention: Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs

Community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and enable me to express my views in regards to the two-tiered medical rebate system for psychological services. I am currently on the Clinical Psychology registrar program after completing a Masters in Clinical Psychology. After completing a very challenging, demanding and specialised two year course, I am finally in a position where I am working in a mental health setting with adults with severe psychiatric disorders at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Being on the Clinical Psychology registrar program involves weekly supervision with a P5 Clinical Psychologist as well as at least monthly professional development workshops and fortnightly involvement in a peer support program, the Voices Clinic (CBT for voices/auditory hallucinations). It also involves monthly involvement in a Personality Disorders group, which is facilitated by a Clinical Psychologist who specializes in Personality Disorders. This highly advanced and specialized training will provide me with the confidence to treat severe psychiatric disorders once I enter private practice, which I intend to do in a few years once I am prepared.

The Clinical Psychology program at university provided me with highly intensive and specialized training in mental health and has equipped me with the skills to work effectively within the population I am currently in. This masters program provided me with a thorough understanding of the complexity of psychological conditions within the DSM-IV, as well as in the assessment, formulation and treatment of people with both high prevalent and severe psychiatric disorders. This training has enabled me to work effectively and confidently with individuals experiencing severe psychiatric disabilities.

I believe that Psychologists of all specialties and areas have many skills to offer individuals who are experiencing distressing psychological symptoms. However, I strongly believe that Clinical Psychologists are the best equipped to manage and treat those individuals who are experiencing the most severe psychiatric disorders. After the work and time dedicated to this advanced training, it is only logical that Clinical Psychologists be rewarded for their specialized skills. I hope you take this into consideration when making your decision that would ultimately affect thousands of Psychologists and also individuals who benefit from their services in Australia.

Kind Regards,
Emma Campbell

Clinical Psychology Registrar MAPS