

Dear Sirs/Mesdames

I have suffered from a major illness (prostate cancer) since 2006, which has involved very dramatic treatments but unfortunately not with good results. This has caused me a lot of emotional distress that became more debilitating than the illness or substantial loss of income.

I have benefitted from appointments with a skilled psychologist in which she has bulk billed. This has enabled me to return to a more productive life and less dependence on the health/welfare system, as well as family and friends.

I'm now worried at the prospect at the loss of possible appointments most I have already used and the cost I will incur with the reduction in funding for clinical psychologists, which given my other family responsibilities will probably also result in reduced appointments.

This seems typical of the stop/start policy approach of the current government. Successful programs are curtailed and expectations built up and then dashed. It is very disappointing.

There is a well-established connection between mental health and the ability to fight off illnesses like cancer, which I have directly experienced. I understand each of the injections I receive costs thousands of dollars. My counselling seems a worthwhile alternative, cost wise as well as everything else.

Yours sincerely