

---

Committee online submissions

### **Commonwealth Funding and Admin of Mental health**

I am a Psychologist in private practice and I write to express my concern regarding the two-tiered funding for psychologists.

I have been registered since 1993 as a generalist psychologist. I will outline some of my experience working as a psychologist

I was employed by a NGO working with people with disabilities and submitted a successful tender for funding to work with people with mental health issues. I then set up and managed this section of the organisation. I completed the initial assessments for clients and assisted them in their bid for DSP.

After six years, I moved to private practice and was asked to become part of a PTSD program at the Geelong Clinic; a private psychiatric hospital. I wrote two of the modules and have facilitated these since 2001 and to date twenty cohorts have completed the program. I am Critical Incident trained and often am called to CI's in Geelong, Western Melbourne and the Western area of Victoria.

I am a director of a large provincial psychological practice with 23 psychologists who regularly meet for peer supervision to discuss clients and these psychologists are well trained and knowledgeable people who are the equal of clinical psychologists in their profession.

I consider myself to have considerable experience, knowledge and expertise and strongly refute the premise that Clinically trained psychologists have greater expertise than counselling/generalist psychologists. I therefore urge the decision to have a two tiered system to be carefully reconsidered.

Regards