

Att: Senate

Re: Proposed changed to two tier system (Clinical Psychology: medicare)

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to you in response to the proposed changes to two tier system in psychology / clinical psychology. I am writing this as a 4 year registered psychologist who has completed their Clinical Masters program and just completed the 12 month credentialing supervision process (40 hours + professional workshops). I must say I am very disappointed about this consideration and find it an insult to my chosen profession. I am feeling somewhat 'rorted' and feel that I would have a right to a civil case against the universities that 'sell' a course that the government is stating has no impact or makes no difference to outcomes in treatment. I personally am still paying for my course that was completed in 2009. This coursework costs are in excess of \$30, 000 plus 1000 hours of volunteer hours as part of the coursework (loss of income). On top of this my 12 mth supervision process cost \$120 per hour (\$4 800).

I personally believe the research that you are basing your decision on has no methodological rigour whatsoever. Why wouldn't you ask the GP's and psychiatrist that have chosen to send me their patients rather than to a 4 year trained psychologist. These are the people that are talking to their patients everyday regarding their experience with psychologist and clinical psychologist. Believe me I have worked as a 4 year trained psychologist and a 6 year trained psychologist (Clinical masters) and I know the difference between my knowledge, treatment and management of clients. I personally find it hard to believe that you would allow a 4 year trained psychologist to work with complex psychological disorders, I believe this is the real issue!

I believe the government are not dedicated to mental health in any form. These changes were not transparent and why were they not brought up in the federal budget? I believe because the government realises that the public would have seen this very point, that the government is not dedicated to mental health in any form! You are stating that we will have teams set up ATAPS to

manage complex clients, can you tell me who will this team be made up of, nurses, counsellors, occupational therapist! Clinical psychology is the only professional course (besides psychiatry) that is totally dedicated to DSM-IV mental health disorders. I personally found my Masters Course the most challenging and complete course I could ask for. I believe you are discrediting it and the profession in general. I am very disappointed and disillusioned! Why do I not have right to earn money and run my practice, I would have to pay my personal trainer \$150 an hour (cash in hand) and he could get his qualifications in 3 months, yet it has taken me 10 years to develop my skills and my qualifications. And my personal trainer would not have to write reports for his clients and correspondence after the session like I do!