

Dr. Dawn Rayner-Brosnan PhD
Australian Psychological Society College of Health Psychologists

Psychologist

Health and General

and consulting by report to Workplace - Legal and Medical

5th September 2011 Postal Address

Dr. Ian Holland
Secretary
Community Affairs Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600.



Dear Mr. Holland,

I can say this, I am listed as a general psychologist. I am also a health psychologist (unrecognized by medicare). I adhere to the scientist practitioner model. I tailor to need.

I have 5 requests to pose to your committee.

1. I would like funding to be provided for **longterm evaluation** of clients to ensure maintenance of good outcome and ensure recidivism was not occurring and this will show which service providers are the most competent. I support best practice and for all clients, the goal of improved life style by entering into the therapy. Complex cases don't always become apparent in early sessions and this is particularly an issue in low disclosing male patients.

2. I believe patients deserve a **proper item number for a medical condition** with psychological consequences and not be labeled as having a mental health condition (which could affect their life insurance) in order to receive a medicare rebate. As a health psychologist **I have saved hospitals bed space** and helped clients recover more quickly

3. I would like general psychologists who have practiced more than 30 **years be treated in an equal way** to clinical psychologists. They have undertaken a full training which included clinical concepts before the courses were streamed and they have undertaken years of professional development updating. The difference in income is a decrease of 30% to 81.20 hr, and greater with doctors now being incorrectly told of their inferiority hence too many spaces. (room rental can reach this rate).

4. Each client treated with dignity and thoughtfulness has a higher success rate. There should be a limit on how many clients are seen so that best quality of care is maintained. We need adequate income to restore ourselves and plan to meet the next clients needs thoughtfully. This shortens number of sessions needed sometimes.

I know that as a "general" psychologist. **I have saved lives. I have prevented suicide and financial ruin of my clients** through intervention and helping them quickly return to good health before they suffer too much financial loss. I have value.

5. I would like some **freedom to use methods** that I believe will provide best outcome without being restrained by item 80110.

You all have the background and capacity and I hope that circumstances give you the energy and clarity for wise decisions.

Yours sincerely