

27<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Dear Committee,

I have recently been made aware of a decision to decrease the number of rebates available for Psychology sessions per calendar year, and I am writing to ask that this decision be reconsidered.

I am young, single, living on my own and working to support myself financially. An event that occurred has made it necessary for me to seek Psychological treatment in order for me to function in society, and complete day-to-day tasks, including being able to work and earn money, instead of relying on government support such as CentreLink.

I was incredibly disheartened to hear that I am now only eligible for up to 10 rebates per calendar year, in place of 18. For me, this equates to a financial loss of over \$950, an amount that many people would struggle to come up with, as will I.

If this decision is upheld, it will leave me in a position where I will need to appropriate money elsewhere from my budget, such as funds for groceries, medications and heating, as well as seasonally appropriate clothing.

Taking money away from these household expenses will no doubt lead to increased periods of physical illness, resulting in frequent visits to my GP. This will, in turn, result in increased expense to the government, so any money saved in reducing the amount of rebates available to the public will be lost in increased Medicare costs.

Again, I ask for this decision to be reconsidered. The financial assistance provided through these rebates enables everyday people to seek an extremely beneficial form of treatment they might not otherwise be able to afford.