

26th July 2011

Dear Committee,

I am concerned that there has been a decrease in the number of rebated Psychology sessions available per calendar year, from 18 to 10.

As a parent of two young adults who are currently using this service I strongly implore you to reconsider this decision.

Both my children are simply average young adults who need this very valuable medical service to help them deal with serious issues, and their overall wellbeing depends upon being able to access it. For this reason if the rebate ends at 10 sessions, I will need to 'find' the money to ensure they continue to get the treatment they require.

Without this Medicare rebate I will have to choose to forego basic grocery items and heating in order to pay for psychotherapy for my children, as without it they will not continue to be functioning members of society. The result of this is that the entire household's physical health will likely suffer, and in turn cause all of us to use our GP's services more frequently. In effect, the money the government saves on the psychology rebate it will likely lose in increased GP expenses, making it a lose/ lose.

Please reconsider this reduction in rebated sessions, and understand that any perceived saving is temporary at best.

Regards,