

Submission to the Senate Inquiry

As a long standing psychologist and current Specialist Title Counselling Psychologist who worked in a regional area of Western Australia for over 15 years I would like to encourage some reconsideration of the decision to cut the number of sessions from 18 to 10.

Good and consistent access to services for those suffering significant mental and emotional distress is crucial in the decision making process that is each one of them goes through in order to become engaged in a service. Having worked with young suicidal people, older males and isolated individual I have come to fully appreciate how difficult the decision to seek help is for each of these people.

In order for practitioners to maintain their availability and support for these clients there needs to be substantial backing both financial and strategic in order to allow them to provide a viable service. IN particular in isolated settings where there is a crucial need the support for such a service at a systemic level is crucial.

I will continue to make submissions to the Inquiry as I work my way through my thoughts.

Anne-Marie Loney Dip Ed M.Psych (Counselling)
Western Australia
26th July 2011