

August 2011

RE: Funding of Mental Health

To Whom It May Concern:

As a Psychologist working with children affected by Autistic Spectrum Disorders, and their families, I wish to stress the importance that the reduction from 12 sessions with Medicare rebates, to 6 sessions will have on these families.

- These families are already struggling financially to provide much needed intensive intervention to their children. A reduction in these sessions and rebates will only further increase this financial burden.
- These families may then be placed in a position where they are no longer able to access services for their child which could have a long term negative impact on that child's development.

It is therefore my position that the number of sessions with Medicare rebates should not be cut to 6 sessions but rather should remain at the current 12 sessions.

King regards,

Sarah Mooy