

To whom it may concern:

I feel compelled to write to you in order to express my growing concern about the situation in my profession. I have been relegated to the bottom tier of APS membership. Even though the Medicare debate really does not affect me directly as I am employed in an educational setting, I have been very disturbed by the lack of empathy and understanding for psychologists in my position. Since graduating with First Class Honours I have gained a PhD as well as having undertaken extensive professional development over the years including four intensive years of training to become a qualified Gestalt Therapist. In addition to all this post graduate study I have also gained enormous experience working in my school community having been the only psychologist on staff for the past seven years with a population of 1,200 students and their families under my care. I have engaged in regular peer supervision and clinical supervision throughout this time in order to continually fine tune my practice. I hope you can appreciate, therefore, how offensive it is for me to be placed in a 'generalist' category and virtually told I am not as professionally valued as some other psychologists. I sincerely hope that equity within my profession is restored.

Regards,  
Lee-Ann Prideaux