

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

13 July 2011

Dear Secretary

I am writing in defence of the current two-tiered Medicare rebate scheme. I am concerned this is being undermined by a vocal group of unendorsed psychologists.

Clinical psychology training, particularly at the doctoral level at which I underwent my training, leaves psychologists far better equipped to address severe mental health issues than does generalist training such as that undertaken by counselling or educational psychologists. The degree of training is far more rigorous, and the placements and internships required expose students to a far greater range and severity of mental health issues.

As a result, it is my opinion that clinical psychologists are better placed to address mental health issues in the community. The Medicare rebate system ought to reflect this.