

Term of reference (b iv) refers to the reduction in the number of sessions available.

Term of reference (e i) refers to the cut in rebate for my child to see a clinical psychologist (clinical psychology services currently attract a higher rebate (\$120) than general psychology services (\$80). Clinical psychology services attract this higher rebate because of the specialist skills and knowledge they hold in mental health issues.

Here are some of my concerns:-

Term of Reference (b iv): The impact of changes to the number of allied mental health treatment services for patients with mild or moderate mental illness under the Medicare Benefits Schedule

When addressing this term of reference, I really want you to think about how cutting the number of sessions to 10 may affect my child or someone like them. I am speaking on behalf of my son. who is being treated by a clinical psychologist and suffering from emotional symptoms.

Term of Reference (e i): The two-tiered Medicare rebate system for psychologists

Cutting the rebate to see a clinical psychologist will mean that my out of pocket expense is greater

It will be almost impossible for a clinical psychologist to bulk bill any client

Clinical psychologists are the only psychologists whose postgraduate training is in mental health care of problems such as anxiety and depression. A clinical psychologist must have either a doctorate or masters degree to obtain the title "clinical psychologist". Other psychologists without this specialist postgraduate education are arguing that the rebate available to see a clinical psychologist (\$120) should be the same as for their services (\$80).

I would like the clinical psychologist that my child sees to have postgraduate training in mental health care of problems such as anxiety and depression. Also to have either their doctorate or their masters degree. They have the knowledge and experience and training. Ask yourself the question as to what education level you would like your psychologist to have? I know who I would choose the trained clinical psychologist.

This is also some more information on how I feel about cutting the number of session and also cutting the rebate. I want the best for my son.

My name is [redacted] and I have been made aware that the Federal Government have decided to cut the number of sessions available for my son (and all clients of course) to see a clinical psychologist from a possible 18 to a maximum of 10. How can you put a number of sessions on the recovery of a client. We need to be patient and not rush a client. This will have a damaging effect on all clients.

This I feel will compromise my son and other client outcomes for a number of reasons as outlined below.

- After my son left school he tried out quite a few different courses. Then all of a sudden I would realise that he was starting to take a day off. After a short time my son withdrew from the RMIT course. I gave my son some time to find out or figure out what he may want to do next. Instead he seemed to withdraw from everyone and everything. I noticed my son was showing signs of depression. He slept all day and stayed up all night. Then stayed up all night and slept all day. He was very emotional and I was afraid of what he might do. I was very worried about my son as I could not even talk to him to help him. He would not go out with friends, he would not leave the house, his diet was not good. If friends rang and asked him to go out he said no as he knew he would not be able leave the house. I also had pressure from my family telling me he was lazy and he needs a good kick up the arse. How dare they judge him and say that when they have not lived with him and don't even know how it must hurt him to not be able to enter the world or work force. I knew I had to get professional help. Having to deal with something like this puts pressure on the whole family unit. I feel for my son and feel helpless but at the same time, I am very supportive of my son and have had patience with him. I love him very much. I did the following for my son.**
- I made a Doctors appointment for Matthew and had to force my son to even attend the appointment. My son was very upset and angry with me. At the appointment my son was referred to a Clinical Psychologist in Niddrie. I attended the first appointment with my son and I new on the very first visit to the clinical psychologist that my son felt comfortable with him.**
- My son has made progress by attending these visits and without help I have no idea where he would be. He did not even leave the house for six (6) months or more. He would not even go outside to pat his sisters dog. He would not drive the car. He would not come to the country with my husband and I at Christmas time to visit grandparents, cousins, aunties and uncles. I wanted my son to recover so I accepted this.**
- My son has been out with friends once in January 2011, and again in May, 2011. He also has driven occasionally. He did visit Christmas 2010. (a quick visit with his sister).**
- My son has recently turned 21 and I no longer receive Family Tax Benefit for him. We applied for some assistance for my son as he needs some form of income as he will be left behind and have no income for his future (as his family works) but have limited money left over like most people these days. My son is unable at present to work and I worry about what the future holds for him. My son has built up trust with his clinical psychologist and with regular visits and being able to talk to him when needed will be given ways in which he will be able to gain confidence and life skills for his future. I don't think anyone can put a time line on a clients recovery. That's just ridiculous. Where will all of the clients end up. Think of suicide, they may become homeless if we don't support them, they may resort to drugs, alcohol and who knows what else. We need to love and support our children and also other clients need support for their**

future. They are worthwhile and we should realise that everyone needs a chance for recovery.

I love my son. Please reconsider what effect this will have on my son and all clients.

Regards,