

From:
To: [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Health Insurance Amendment (Safety Net) Bill 2015
Date: Sunday, 15 November 2015 2:35:50 PM

To The Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee,

The proposed changes to the Medicare safety net will mean that the most vulnerable people in our community will not be able to access appropriate care.

The new Medicare Safety Net proposed for introduction from 1 January 2016, (as announced in the 2014-15 Budget Measure) will have a terrible effect on a significant number of Australians who need long-term ongoing medical treatment, unfortunately I am included in this group of people.

I am a survivor of severe child sexual abuse and require therapy with my psychotherapist twice a week. I am 55 years old and suffered abuse from my father between the ages of 5 and 16.

I have been struggling with this secret all of my life and the pervasive effects the sadistic sexual, emotional and physical abuse has caused me. I gathered the courage to tell my GP in May 2014 who referred me to a medical psychotherapist. For 50 years I have kept this secret. This abuse has affected every area of my life and I urgently need the intensive psychotherapy help to re-build my life and to try and make a "happy" life for myself, for the few years I have left on this planet.

Under the new Safety Net, I will lose the support provided by the current Safety Net arrangements. My medical psychotherapist charges (under item 57) \$200 per session (I have two sessions per week) and I currently receive \$172.20 back per session. So my current out of pocket is \$27.80 per visit. Due to the sexual abuse I endured, I have other medical conditions which require medical treatment, such as obesity, hypertension, arthritis, and heart disease.

Under the new safety net I will suffer significant and increased financial hardship, or may be forced to give up much needed treatment with potentially disastrous consequences.

I ask that you consider my case, and I'm sure thousands of other Australians with long term health problems, and do not support the proposed changes to the Medicare safety net.

Kind regards,