

10th July 2011

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

Dear Committee Members,

Re; Senate community Affairs Reference Committee proposal to abolish the two tiered Medicare rebate system for psychologists.

I am writing this letter to express my objection about the proposal to change the two tiered Medicare rebate system for psychologists.

Currently I am able to access mental health care under the Better Access to mental health initiative with a specialist clinical psychologist at Northwest Psychological Services in Melton, Victoria . Further these services are bulk billed to all consumers.

Clinical Psychologists are trained to provide service for the most complex mental health issues.

I feel that the quality of my care would be affected if I were unable to receive the quality of care and commitment that my clinical Psychologists provide to me for my mental health issues.

Ms Kylie Clarke (Principal clinical psychologist) and her associates are dedicated to helping and providing bulk billed consultations to all consumers receiving service.

The new proposal abolishing the two tiered rebate ignores evidence from psychological research. It also ignores the needs of people like myself with significant mental health issues in disadvantaged areas.

Putting people in a position where they would be worse off financial and not be able to go and use this fantastic service that is available.

Taking a hard line on mental health consumers is not the answer.

I urge the senate committee to reconsider the proposal to abolish the two tiered Medicare rebate for psychologists immediately ensuring all consumers have the opportunity to access specialist mental health services with the appropriately qualified specialist clinical psychologists.

Because without this happening it is going to have a big impact on patients affordability to use this service.

Sincerely