

5 August 2011

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: SENATE ENQUIRY INTO MENTAL HEALTH**

I have been a registered psychologist for over 10 years and have done comprehensive training and supervision in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders using evidence based practice. I have extensive experience in working with people from trauma backgrounds. I have worked in the Community Sector as a Domestic Violence Counsellor; I work in private practice part-time and am employed part-time at Deakin University as a Psychologist in Student Services. I have a Masters in Health Sciences (Sexual Health) and currently undertaking a PhD in Health Sciences at the University of Sydney. I assess and diagnose and treat clients from a variety of trauma backgrounds be it domestic violence, adult survivors of sexual abuse and sexual assault. I also see war veterans and their family members. I am also a registered service provider for Victorian Police and the Victorian Ambulance Association.

As you can see I have had extensive experience in working with people who post traumatic stress disorder and complex presentations. Many people who have mental health issues also experience sexual difficulties. Working with sexual issues is, in my opinion a neglected area of psychology. In my experience there are very few psychologists who have formal qualifications and experience in working within an evidence based framework in this area. I consult and supervise other psychologists and allied health professionals regarding sexual concerns that arise for their patients.

I am baffled and confused regarding the 2-tierd approach to Medicare and support the dismantling of the 2-tierd Medicare approach. I believe that the clients at the end of the day clients are not benefiting from the myriad and richness of the qualifications and experience that many psychologists – be they come from clinical or counselling backgrounds have to offer.

Yours sincerely

Françes D'Arcy-Iehan  
Counselling Psychologist  
PO Box 362  
DRYSDALE 3222