



Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on Mental Health
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

Funding for Mental Health

My son was a gifted child but became a problem teenager. He left school early. Wine, women, song, pot, tobacco. Diagnosed as schizophrenic. Periods in psychiatric hospital. Disability pension. Little work. Clashes with police, often brutal.

Now he is back living with me. Refuses medication because of side effects. Tormented by voices. Teeth falling out. Smoking. Social skills gone. What will happen to him when I'm gone?

Improvements are needed to medication, general health services, support accommodation, ~~and~~ assisted accommodation and employment and other aspects.

His quality of life would improve along with that of many like him. There would be less stress on their loved ones. A successful outcome would lead to a net gain to the taxpayer.

Yours in hope
Concerned father