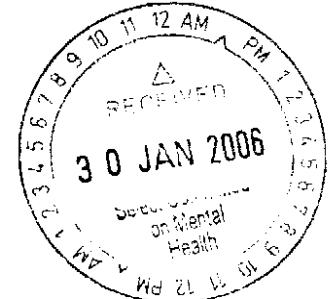


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Date: 23 Jan 06

Australian Senate
Select Committee on Mental Health
attn: Mr Ian Holland, Secretary
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Mr Holland

Second Submission

I understand from Senator Ruth Webber that we have until March 06 to make further submissions and following my study of the Mental Health Council of Australia's NOT FOR SERVICE summary Report and wish to comment on some of the very worthwhile recommendations within it –

1 Leadership and Governance- a, b, c, d, are all commendable especially in consideration that the 1992 National Mental Health Strategy Commitment by Australian, State, Territory and Commonwealth Govts to improve the lives of people with mental Illness seems to have ceased to exist together with the National Community Advisory Group on Mental Health (NCAG) to provide input to the former which ceased existence in 1998. It seems that the Mental Health Sector has become disadvantaged by lack of a National Peak Body with clout.

2 Funding-

g) That research funding be increased from the current level of less than 4% of Health Research funding to approx. 10% to ensure that more effective diagnostic and treatment options *to include case management and psychological counselling options* are available to the Australian Mental Illness Community.

h) That specific funds be allocated through a non medical organisation to conduct research into effective *and ongoing psychological consultation support* thus improving outcomes for people with a mental illness

5 Workforce-

A,b,c,d,e, are all excellent, but that in c) the psychology support workforce may need more training from the point of view of dealing with lack of insight for a considerable number of the seriously mentally ill.

In my view the Psychology workforce could work alongside Case Management and vice versa possibly ex hospital and Psychiatrist stage

In conclusion I can only add that if it wasn't for the consultative and sincere high quality ^{case management} inputs our daughter on her high daily dose of Clozapine might well be back in hospital for the eighth time, catatonic, whereas with all our ongoing support, but with only some insight yet re having to take her cumbersome medication has at least some quality of life.

Thanking you for the opportunity to contribute this time and last,
Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]