



CENTRAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES

Senate Inquiry

I am a psychologist with over thirty years of experience as a generalist practitioner. I have endorsement under the new national scheme as a forensic psychologist but I work as a clinician with extra qualifications including a Master of Psychology (Work and Organisational). I chose to do the Masters in Organisational Psychology as I thought I would extend my knowledge that way as opposed to repeating the training I have otherwise had in the clinical arena.

Then came the Medicare scheme and with it the need to be registered with the Clinical Board of the APS. I have attempted to complete the transition qualifications but have been expected to complete many extra components of training and assignments and so whilst working full time am still to complete all they require.

I am deeply offended that my professional organisation, the APS, has been so engaged in this process and see them as having failed completely to care and support the community by their actions. When I see a private client they pay more to see me than they will pay to see a clinical psychologist as I charge a gap. I do this as the Medicare rate is way below the recommendation fee as per the APS!

I see that many of my very skilled colleagues have also been treated as poorly as I have been and so see the public of Australia as being exposed to very junior graduates without the benefit of the experienced practitioners simply because the APS failed to develop more realistic transition arrangements for their members.

I am more than prepared to provide further information as you might require. I hope you can see that the current scheme is not in the interest of the community, that is serves the APS not the profession or the public and so there needs to be an independent body to enable the Medicare process and to ensure mental health services are being delivered by those well qualified by both

training and experience.

13 April 2011

Ms FV Stevens