

Dear Sir/Madam,

I will make this brief as I am sure you will be inundated with responses. I am now one of the 80% of Australian psychologists categorized as an unendorsed generalist psychologist. I have met all my obligations and requirements to call myself a Psychologist. I have been working in private practice for eight years and have seen clients through the Better Access Scheme from its inception to present. My client list is varied and I receive my referrals from GP's and Government Departments.

I am currently the Gold Coast president of the Australian College of Psychologists (ACP), formally the Australian College of Clinical Psychologists (the ACCP reluctantly changed our name after over 30 years of establishment due to having the word "clinical" in our name in response to fears of legal repercussions). I am not and never have been a member of or affiliated with the Australian Psychological Society.

My concerns are:

- The justification of the two tiered Medicare rebate system in light of the recent report from the Department of Health and Ageing's Evaluation of the Better Access Scheme showing no difference in outcomes delivered by Clinical Psychologists and Generalists, which discriminates my clients from receiving a higher rebate.
- The erosion of my academic qualification by AHPRA by implementing the endorsed/unendorsed categories.
- The failure to make provisions for a grandfather clause to endorsement.
- The limited consultation from AHPRA with other psychological peak bodies due to its affiliation with the APS.
- The limited access to a Clinical Masters University placement if I desire to become endorsed.

I would appreciate answers to address my concerns and those of my ACP colleagues.

Regards,

Jeff Coucill