

To Whom It May Concern,

I am in total disagreement in regard to the reduction of sessions under a mental health care plan. I strongly believe that the current number of sessions is inadequate let alone a reduction of them.

The incidence of mental health issues in Australia is on the rise so how can we possibly be considering a reduction.

My son was at an early age diagnosed with a mild mental disability. In Year 10 he was attending a local government school as was severely bullied & as a consequence has suffered from severe anxiety & depression. He required many consultations with a clinical psychologist. It is my belief that there is currently no special consideration of these patients with developmental issues and mental health needs. I believe that these cases need particular attention & require much more than 6 annual visits to a psychologist so how can you even consider reducing this allocation.

My son's anxiety & depression has affected our whole family. In fact, I as his mother needed to remain solid & strong for him & actually needed to go and see a clinical psychologist who specialised in children with developmental issues so I could be guided through this very difficult time.

Three years on & my son still requires visits to his clinical psychologist & I see that this will remain into the future in order for him to feel accepted in society & survive in the real & everyday world.

So I beg you not to reduce but to rather increase access to sessions under the mental health care plan. Surely it would be cheaper in the long run to have access to these sessions rather than having to support these people when they reach a crisis point.

Regards