

I am a psychologist of 26 years experience. When I was a postgraduate student, I joined the Australian Psychological Society, and have been a member since then. I am, by nature, a conservative person and it has taken me this long to react to the impact of changes to the Medicare system and the two tier rebate system which treats clinical psychologists differently to other psychological specialities. I have resigned my membership of the APS this year. I cannot support an organisation that continues to promote a two tier system, which disenfranchises so many eminent psychologists (in spite of their skills and experience) purely because of their 'speciality'.

As a member of the community, I am concerned that clinical psychologists are able to charge more (because they get a higher rebate) for the same services than 'non-clinical' psychologists, in spite of their being no differences in treatment or outcome. This is a waste of public resources. As a psychologist, I now feel alienated by my own profession as my years of experience as an effective psychologist are now largely unrecognised, and I am concerned that it may not be worth continuing to practice psychology even though I probably have at least 20 years left in the workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to let you know how an 'ordinary' psychologist feels about changes to a system that worked quite well as recently as 5 years ago. All psychologists were treated the same. Even though psychologists weren't adequately rebated for their expertise, there weren't an artificially created 'two tiers' between psychologists who were largely treating clients in the same caring way, with much the same outcome for their clients.

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Psychologist