

Dear Committee Members,

I am a Clinical Psychologist working in private practice in North Sydney. I have been a psychologist for 19 years and 14 years ago returned to University to undertake a Masters Degree resulting in my qualifications as a Clinical Psychologist.

I am extremely disappointed that the session number has been cut from 18 to 10. The majority of my clients need more sessions than the 18 and thus I am forced to attempt to spread the sessions over the year and offer a significantly reduced rate.

In relation to the two tiered system, I understand Clinical Psychologists who want recognition for their additional training and experience, however should it be decided to abolish the two tiered system then the rebate should be kept at the higher level rather than reduced to the lower which is simply inadequate regarding client's affordability to attend for highly needed services. All psychologists have undertaken University degrees and should be recognised in the rebate system. Whilst I benefit from the higher rate I believe that general psychologists require a higher rate than they are getting and that Clinical Psychologists rebate should not be reduced.

My clients benefit from the higher rebate which I believe should not be reduced by abolishing the two tiered system.