

In May 2012, the WA Institute of Clinical Psychologists in private practice (ICP) ran a survey regarding the effect of the Better Access cuts on the role and function of private practicing Clinical Psychologists. The following email was sent out to colleagues across the country and also contains the questions asked in this short survey.

Dear Colleagues,

There have been significant changes in funding to the Better Access program which supports people to see private practice specialist psychologists. Funding has been cut and the number of sessions supported has been reduced and will be further reduced in January 2013. The ICP is running a short survey to get some feedback from people in private practice about how these changes are impacting their practice and ability to provide private services. The ACSP has offered to send out these questions to assist with their survey. If you are not in private practice but know of someone who is, please forward this email on. Changes to and definitions of practice in the private sector will also impact specialists in the Government and NGO sector, so please consider to support your colleagues. Answers will remain anonymous and will be used to assist in working towards a better understanding by decision makers of what it means to undertake psychotherapy, and to encourage better funding of these services.

The questions below are from Karen Goodall-Smith (ICP member) and I have added a couple of other questions as well. Please forward your response to Karen at the email address above and also to myself.

Thank you for your responses and assistance.

Jillian Horton

ICP QUESTIONS

- 1. Did the numbers of referrals or clients decrease over the past year and if so when did it become apparent? If affected, please include any comments or clarification about how significant the changes have been .**
- 2. If the referrals and/or client numbers have dropped, has this affected the viability of continuing to engage in private practice and if so, why? Please include any comments or clarification.**
- 3. If you have been affected by a drop last year, has there been any improvement in 2012. If so, why do you think this is? Please include any comments or clarification.**
- 4. If you have been affected, what future do you see for yourself and will you remain in private practice or will you try to get paid employment? Please include any comments or clarification.**

PLUS ACSP questions

5. What concerns do you have for your ability to provide good psychotherapy services to client once the further cuts to session number occurs in 2013 (Limit of 10 session per year)
6. What concerns do you have now and in the future about the access of clients to specialist psychological services. Please add any comments from clients you may have received.

Dr. Jillian Horton
President of the ACSP

Email sent to colleagues May 2012