

Email sent October 2010 in response to Mr Grittens article in the Sydney Morning Herald regarding the need for psychologists to be more actively involved in Government policy-making.

Dear Mr Grittins,

I read your article in the Sydney Morning Herald last week about the need for Psychologists to become more active in Government policy making. I fully agree with your view. Our profession has not done a lot towards assisting with policy making in many fields where they could offer research information and practical ideas. This is an issue which I have been aware of for some time and have seen, especially in the mental health policy area, a lot of poor programs or narrow focuses roll out. It is also the case that other professionals, such as those you mentioned, but also other professionals, constantly speak in areas where post graduate trained psychologists could offer a lot more.

As a result, a new professional body has been formed in August this year – the ***Australian College of Specialist Psychologists***, with the aim of having stronger input into Government policy making so that the community gets a better deal in a range of areas. It is however not always easy to obtain access to politicians (and even the media) and it will probably take some time before we have an opportunity to have input. We are however meeting with a section of the Federal Government in the next couple of weeks, so some progress is perhaps happening.

Thank you again for your very thoughtful article.

Your sincerely,

Dr. Jillian Horton
Clinical Psychologist in private practiced in WA
President of the ***Australian College of Specialist Psychologists***

