

From: Privacy of natural persons
Sent: Tuesday, 27 September 2022 6:28 pm
To: ACregs
Subject: Updates to treatment regulations

Greetings

This is a submission on the proposed increased to Provider payments for ACC providers. (Updates to treatment regulations)

I am referring specifically to ISSC providers.

I note an increase to Counsellors - which is necessary, as these providers have been underpaid for decades.

Many psychotherapists and counsellors who work with ACC ISSC claimants have spent many hours at self-funded training workshops over many years to gain the knowledge and skills required to work with survivors of sexual abuse.

I note no mention of Psychotherapists receiving an increase. Psychotherapists are paid unfairly in relation to Psychologists who, though hail from a different training, provide similar treatments, for example, ongoing therapeutic treatments for the impact of sexual abuse as well as ACC reports and Supported assessments.

A Psychotherapist undertaking a supported assessment (for a psychologist or other provider) is paid significantly less than a Psychologist or Psychiatrist providing the same service i.e. a Supported Assessment. A Psychologist seeing a claimant is paid more than a Psychotherapist (with equivalent qualifications) who is doing the Supported Assessment for the Psychologist's client. This is inequitable.

Working with ACC sensitive claims is skilled work and takes many years to learn to work effectively with those recovering from PTSD; including dissociative states and many mental and emotional injuries. Also relationship and personality injuries that result from sexual abuse in childhood. Psychotherapy is a necessary treatment with good outcomes for many ACC Sensitive Claims clients. I understand why many psychotherapy practitioners are reluctant to take on this work, it is demanding of mental and emotional energy, and it is underpaid. Although psychotherapy practitioners in private practice generally charge less per session compared to Psychologists, this is generally because we charge what clients might afford so they can benefit from medium to longer term interpersonal therapy when this is the best treatment.

In my view, it is discriminatory that practitioners are paid different rates for the same services, although delivered differently, according to claimants assessed needs.

Psychotherapists, Psychologists and Counsellors, who are trained, experienced and effective, should be paid equally.

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