



**The Hon Greg Hunt MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the**  
**Public Service and Cabinet**

Ref No: MC20-011945

Mr Brenton Priestley  
PGC Legal  
Level 12, 44 Waymouth Street  
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14 MAY 2020

Dear Mr Priestley

I refer to your letter of 14 April 2020 concerning the separate Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items and the different Medicare rebates for registered and clinical psychologists.

I acknowledge and value the contribution psychologists make to improving mental health care for our Australian communities. Their contributions help improve consumer care and increase the provision of quality mental health services for Australian consumers. The Australian Government is committed to developing a mental health system that ensures people with mental illness receive the appropriate level of care tailored to their needs.

The rebates currently available under the MBS broadly recognise the different levels of training and experience associated with the provision of services by general medical practitioners and specialist medical practitioners. There are several recognised specialities within the practice of psychology with the MBS rebates for psychological therapy services established on this principle.

The MBS Review Taskforce is undertaking a review of the entire MBS to consider how the items can be aligned with contemporary clinical evidence and practice and improve health outcomes for patients. The review is independent and clinician-led.

As part of the review, a Mental Health Reference Group (MHRG) was formed in June 2018 to review the mental health MBS items. The MHRG includes representatives eligible to deliver these services, including both registered and clinical psychologists. The MHRG has considered more than 300 submissions made over the course of the MBS Review relating to mental health. The Taskforce will be submitting its final recommendations to me and these are pending. Further information on the review is available at: [www.health.gov.au/mbsreview](http://www.health.gov.au/mbsreview).

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hunt