



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE COVID-19 2021 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA

## Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into the COVID-19 2021 pandemic response

**Submission Number: 04**

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**From:** [elle judd](#)  
**To:** [LA Committee - COVID19](#)  
**Subject:** Medicare support for Mental health professionals enquiry  
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Thank You for the opportunity to submit how to improve Canberra's Covid19 response.

The waitlist for Trauma Therapy was approximately 6-12 months pre pandemic. This has been inappropriate ie. sexual assault survivors using Rape Crisis Centre unable to attend their childcare awaiting long lists and cancellations .

This was grossly inadequate pre pandemic .

Please support current movements to allow mental health professionals with appropriate degrees medicare item number access to enable more People to connect to more counsellors and psychotherapy options as psychologists are in high demand. Currently psychologists social workers and Occupational Therapists can access a Medicare Item Number to supply support. It is long overdue that registered insured Counsellors and Psychotherapists with post graduate qualifications have the same access to provide services through the Medicare program in conjunction with the GP Mental Health care plan .

More people could receive support in a more appropriate and timely manner. Canberra, whilst wonderful first world is suboptimal in mental health care provision. We need a more educated Trauma Aware approach for best recovery/return to work outcomes etc.

Canberrans deserve better.

Medicare can be better utilised in mental health pandemic and the managing the ongoing after effects.

I Trust you assist us to save lives and families via improving current shortcomings and inconsistencies.

Best Regards

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