

27 September 2012

**Re: Scaling back treatment in the Better Access initiative**

Dear Minister,

I refer to our letter dated 23 August 2012 and your reply via Paula Zylstra on 25 September 2012.

The first and last sentence of our letter requests a telephone discussion with you at the earliest opportunity. We note that the 3 page reply we received makes no mention of arranging a discussion or meeting. Earlier this morning I called both Paula Zylstra and your Parliamentary office to arrange a time for the discussion we requested.

Both Paula Zylstra and the person I spoke with at your office stated that "the Minister is not available at this time". To be clear, our written request did not specify a time, but rather, requested a telephone discussion with you at the earliest opportunity. We are willing to discuss our concerns with you today, tomorrow, next week, next month, or any time into the foreseeable future – as soon as possible.

We have read the form letter reply and the concerns we are hearing from the public remain as they were. Therefore we must repeat our request for a telephone discussion, or a meeting with you in person. We believe this issue needs urgent discussion given the timing of further cuts scheduled in a few months time.

Please appreciate the seriousness of this issue to thousands of members of the public, including both distressed people with mental health conditions and the various types of mental health practitioners who deliver psychological care to meet their need for treatment.

We look forward to a timely response about our request for a meeting.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Ben Mullings  
Practitioner Spokesperson  
Alliance for Better Access