

09 June 2015

Right Honourable Jonathan Coleman
Minister of Health
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister,

RE: Social Bonds to fund Mental Health Services

AnzaCBT is an organisation made up of multi-disciplinary Mental Health Professionals, including clinical psychologists, health psychologists, psychiatrists, occupational therapists, nurses, counsellors and other related disciplines. Our organisation was set up to promote the safe and effective practice of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), an evidence based treatment for a wide range mental health disorders.

We are deeply concerned that the National Government is proposing to trial Social Bonds as a funding source for provision of services for vulnerable people who have mental health issues. There is currently no evidence that shows such a method of funding adds to treatment outcomes of those who experience mental health problems.

We believe that if there is a profit motive or incentive involved in service delivery, it will skew who gets access to treatment, and negatively affect the measurement of outcomes and the overall quality of the service delivery. There is good evidence that this has been the case in countries that have trialled this approach.

If the Government believes that there are current gaps in mental health services and that mental health consumers are missing out on treatment options that will improve their social and occupational functioning, it is incumbent on you as Minister of Health to find and provide appropriate funding sources for this purpose. Evidence thus far would suggest that private investment funds cannot be relied upon in this important matter.

We would appreciate the chance to meet with you and discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Elborn

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