

# The hidden disorder

LAST month a state parliamentary report into body image painted a dismal picture of the child anorexia problem in this country.

Its findings were not surprising because a report about Australian patients in *The Lancet* in 2001 concluded similarly. Since that report, no new evidence has been published that there are effective treatments for eating

disorders within the health-care system of Australia: a similar situation to most other countries.

Fifteen years ago, we started developing a different method to treat eating disorders at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. At the time, the Swedish situation was like Australia today. Since that time, we have treated more than 50 Australian patients, all of whom were seriously ill, and the outcome has been favourable.

To follow patients who have returned to Australia after treatment, we set up a clinic in Melbourne. We were very surprised that the State Government's response to the parliamentary report did not refer to our treatment although we gave evidence to the parliamentary inquiry.

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