

Herald Sun

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Meter works a treat

Michelle Pountney

A REVOLUTIONARY Swedish treatment for anorexia and bulimia is having spectacular success in Australia.

The Mandometer Clinic, which opened in Brighton in March, has reported a success rate for Australians almost double that of Swedish patients.

The Mandometer technique considers anorexia to be a medical condition, not a psychological problem. Anorexics use a "mandometer", a computer that sets how much they eat and the rate at which they eat it.

Almost 30 young Australian women have had the treatment in Sweden, the US and Melbourne since August 2003.

They went in to remission in an average 7.9 months compared with 14.5 months for Swedish patients. Most of the women had had at least three previous treatments for eating disorders, and some had had up to 20.

They had been ill for an average of seven years.

The treatment claims a 75 per cent success rate with a relapse rate of less than 10 per cent.

A group of parents will visit Canberra today to lobby the Federal Government to reimburse them for treatment costs and to provide funding.