



Mental Health
Australia
Media release

Mental Health Australia welcomes reinstatement of telepsychiatry items

18 October 2022 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mental Health Australia welcomes the announcement that the Australian Government will be reinstating additional Medicare support for telehealth psychiatry mental health consultations which is expected to support about 410,000 consultations over four years.

The \$47.7m in funding would restore a 50 per cent fee loading to bulk billed Medicare Benefits Schedule psychiatry services delivered by video telehealth, meaning more patients should be able to access support free of charge.

Mental Health Australia's CEO Dr Leanne Beagley said that "the restoration of these items is an important step to help address some of the inequities that people living in rural and remote areas of Australia have in accessing mental health services."

"Mental Health Australia's Report to the Nation, launched last week, showed that people continue to face barriers in accessing services. Workforce maldistribution continues to impact on access to mental health services particularly in rural and remote areas so increasing support to telepsychiatry is an important component of what needs to be broader workforce reforms," she said.

Mental Health Australia looks forward to the Government releasing its National Mental Health Workforce Strategy and working with them on its implementation.

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