

Media Release

Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

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TELEHEALTH SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS IN THE WIMMERA, MALLEE, MILDURA REGION.

Mental health patients seeking psychological services in the Wimmera, Mallee, Mildura region will be able to claim a Medicare rebate for online videoconferencing consultations from November 1st 2017.

As part of The Federal Government's commitment to bridging the city-country divide in providing access to health services, \$9 million dollars will be dedicated to the service over the next four years.

The rebate will allow for consultations with medical professionals who may be hundreds of kilometres away, eliminating the inconvenience, time and expense of travel for many regional patients.

Member for Mallee Andrew Broad has highlighted the hardship regional mental health patients suffer in seeking treatment in remote areas; he says this commitment by the government is much needed.

"The demand for these services in the Wimmera, Mallee, Mildura region is great and it's only getting greater, and some small towns in our patch don't have a local psychologist or other health professional available."

"With thanks to telehealth technology regional patients will be able to have an appointment with a health professional from the comfort of their home."

Up to seven of the ten sessions currently available under Medicare rebatable mental health plans will be available via telehealth.

"Compared to our urban counterparts there is a big reduction in access to health care in regional Australia and I'm happy to see this support become available to the people of the Wimmera, Mallee, Mildura region.

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