

Media Release

Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

Thursday 9 November 2017

BOOST FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BUSH

A new Medicare rebate has been introduced to remove barriers for rural residents accessing vital mental health treatment. The new telehealth initiative will see a rebate in place for regional Australians seeking mental health consultations via online videoconferencing .

Federal Member for Mallee, Andrew Broad said the new initiative will mean many people across the Wimmera, Mallee and Mildura regions will have an easier way of accessing the care they need.

“Under the new Better Access program seven out of ten sessions can be available via telehealth that is a huge weight off the shoulders of many regional patients who have always had to travel a great distance to their appointments,” he said.

“The demand for mental health services across our regions is growing and accessibility to medical professionals has always been a barrier, with the telehealth initiative we are breaking down that barrier.”

Consultations with psychologists, social workers and occupational therapists will be available via telehealth directed to those small country towns with the biggest access challenges.

“I will continue to advocate for regional Australians in my role as a Member of Parliament and this is a great step toward improving access to medical services across the Wimmera Mallee and Mildura regions,” Mr Broad said.

The Medicare psychological services via telehealth will be available for patients living in Modified Monash Model regions four to seven. Those who want to find out if they are in an eligible rural or remote location can check their address on the Doctor Connect Website.

-ENDS-

Email andrew.broad.mp@aph.gov.au
Web www.andrewbroad.com
Phone 1300 131 620

Media contact: Tori Masters
Email tori.masters@aph.gov.au
Phone 0418 445 233