

# This Won't Hurt a Bit!

Electronic Newsletter for GPs, Practice Nurses and Staff

## 2011-12 Budget Special Edition: Mental Health

Wheatbelt  
GP Network



Building healthy communities through General Practice.

## Mental Health in 2011-12 Budget

2011-12 State and Federal budget announcements see emphasis on Mental Health Services. The announcements from the Commonwealth will significantly impact primary health services.

- ◆ A \$1.5 billion package over five years will fund new initiatives to help thousands of Australians suffering from mental illness.
- ◆ The package includes \$571 million for better coordinated care for severe mental illness, and \$492 million for prevention and early intervention mental health services for children and young people.

Under these changes GP rebates have been affected and changes will come into effect 1 November 2011.

For GPs who have completed their Mental Health Skills Training, the rebate for a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan consultation of between 20-39mins will be \$85.92 and for consultations of 40mins or more will be \$126.43. For GPs who have not completed Mental Health Skills training, the rebate for a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan consultation of between 20-39mins will be \$67.65 and for consultations of 40mins or more will be \$99.55.

The GP Mental Health Review item 2712 and the GP Mental Health consultation item 2713 will both be \$67.65. Savings generated from these changes will be reinvested in additional mental health services for particularly vulnerable and

## Mental Health: Core and Advanced Skills Online course

ACRRM offers online skills training in Mental Health throughout 2011. The Core Skills (MHST) course is designed for GPs with minimal mental health skills training.

### Next Core Skills course

Start date: Wednesday 6 July 2011  
Start time: 7:30 pm AEST  
Session duration: One hour  
Frequency: Each Wednesday, over 6 weeks  
Fee: \$330 (including GST) Payment is required at least seven days before the course starts.

To register now access the registration form from <https://www.acrrm.org.au/mental-health-core-and-advanced-skills> and fax back to ACCRM.

## No wait list for C O U N S E L L I N G

The Wheatbelt GP Network's mental health team offers sub-acute counseling for people of all ages and all cultural groups. The Network offers support during challenging life events and ongoing support for people with a mental illness.

**ALL REFERRALS MUST BE ELECTRONIC (MMEx) as of 1 July 2011. The Network will NOT be accepting faxed referrals from this date. If you need assistance in your electronic system please contact the Network on 9621 1530.**

The most up to date referral form for the Network's counseling service is located at [www.wheatbelt.com.au](http://www.wheatbelt.com.au) for download. Please assist the Network by using the new referral form and discarding any old forms.

Please note: If you are referring on a GP Mental Health Care Plan, you do not need to complete the Network's referral form - simply use your Mental Health Care Plan template.

## Access to Allied Psychological Services (ATAPS) REFERRAL GUIDELINES

The Wheatbelt GP Network employs registered psychologists for GP referral for patients with mental health disorders to low cost psychological services.

The program guidelines and eligibility are outlined below and the Wheatbelt GP Network Counselling Referral Form is available from the website [www.wheatbelt.com.au](http://www.wheatbelt.com.au) under electronic templates or in PDF form under referrals.

### Program Guidelines

Patients who are eligible for the program are entitled to a maximum 10 sessions per calendar year - six sessions with an option for a further four sessions following a mental health review by the referring GP.

### Patient Eligibility

- Attend a GP in the Wheatbelt
- Eligible for a GP Mental Health Care Plan
- Are not an acute case

Important Information: This is not an Emergency Service or a Crisis Counselling Service.

## REFERRAL CONTACTS

MMEx [wgpnreferrals@mmex.gsmhn.com.au](mailto:wgpnreferrals@mmex.gsmhn.com.au)

Phone 9621 1530 with any queries



T 08 9621 1530 | F 08 9621 1532 | E [central@wheatbelt.com.au](mailto:central@wheatbelt.com.au) | [www.wheatbelt.com.au](http://www.wheatbelt.com.au)

Wheatbelt GP Network is an initiative of the Central Wheatbelt Division of General Practice Inc (ABN 73 639 952 959)



Australian Government  
Department of Health and Ageing