

6 Medicare-subsidised psychiatrist and allied health services

6.1 Introduction

This chapter presents information on Medicare Benefits Schedule-subsidised mental health-related services provided by psychiatrists and allied health professionals – psychologists, social workers and occupational therapists.

Australia's universal health care system, Medicare, comprises three main elements designed to provide access to different types of health services. The *Medicare Benefits Schedule* (MBS) provides access to medical, including diagnostic, services; the *Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule* (PBS) provides access to medicines; while through the *Australian Health Care Agreements* (AHCAs) with the states and territories, the Australian Government contributes to public hospital services. MBS-subsidised mental health-related services provided by general practitioners (GPs) are covered in Chapter 2. PBS-subsidised mental health-related prescriptions are covered in chapters 11 and 14 and hospital services are covered in a number of other chapters.

This chapter includes the number and types of services provided by psychiatrists, psychologists and other allied health professionals under the MBS and the characteristics of people who received these services. Information on the psychiatrist workforce is presented in Chapter 13. Note also that some of the services covered in this chapter (such as electroconvulsive therapy and in-hospital services) are also included in other parts of this publication.

The benefits paid by Medicare Australia are based on the MBS. The schedule allocates a unique item number to each medical service, as well as indicating the scheduled payment. More details on the specific MBS items and item groups can be found in the *Medicare Benefits Schedule book* (DoHA 2007).

The MBS was extended to cover allied mental health services including psychologists, firstly with the introduction of the *Enhanced Primary Care Program* from 1 July 2004 and subsequently with the implementation of the *Better access to psychiatrists, psychologists and general practitioners through the Medicare Benefits Schedule* initiative from 1 November 2006. The item groups and item numbers comprising these initiatives are listed in Appendix Table A1.1. Due to the predominance of psychologist items in the numbers of both patients and services recorded in 2007–08, the *MBS-subsidised psychologist service* items are presented separately from those of other allied mental health professionals in this chapter.

People who access *MBS-subsidised psychiatrist* and *other allied health services* may have been referred to a psychiatrist or allied health professional by a GP for the specialised management of mental health-related conditions. As described in Chapter 2, 12.1 of every 100 mental health-related problems managed by GPs in 2007–08 were managed by a referral being provided, with the most common referral being to a psychologist (5.5 per 100 mental health-related problems managed) or to a psychiatrist (1.9 per 100).

Note that a person may access more than one type of MBS-subsidised mental health service during the reporting period; each service is counted separately in the counts of services presented in this chapter.

Key concepts

MBS-subsidised psychiatrist services: services provided by a psychiatrist (or, for electroconvulsive therapy (ECT), by either a psychiatrist or another medical practitioner) on a fee-for-service basis that are partially or fully funded under the Australian Government's Medicare program. These services cover patient attendances (or consultations) provided in different settings as well as services such as group psychotherapy, telepsychiatry, case conferencing and ECT. These item groups along with the relevant MBS item numbers are listed in Appendix Table A1.1. Note that for items in the range 291 to 370 (MBS Group A8) and 855 to 866 (Case conference—consultant psychiatrist), only medical practitioners who are recognised as psychiatrists for the purposes of the Health Insurance Act are eligible to provide services attracting an MBS subsidy.

MBS-subsidised psychologist services: services provided by psychologists that are rebatable by Medicare through *Psychological Therapy Services*, *Focussed Psychological Strategies* and *Enhanced Primary Care* items. Appendix Table A1.1 lists these item groups with the relevant MBS item numbers. For these items to be eligible for Medicare rebates, the provider must meet the following eligibility requirements and be registered with Medicare Australia.

Medicare rebates for *Psychological Therapy Services* are only available for services provided by clinical psychologists who are fully registered in the relevant jurisdiction and are members of, or eligible for membership with, the Australian Psychological Society's College of Clinical Psychologists. Clinical membership is only available for registered psychologists who have completed the standard 4 years of study in psychology and attained an accredited Doctorate degree in clinical psychology or Masters degree in clinical psychology with 1 year of supervised post-Masters clinical psychology experience.

Medicare rebates for *Focussed Psychological Strategies* and *Enhanced Primary Care* are available for services provided by psychologists who are fully registered in the relevant jurisdiction regardless of any specialist clinical training. Registered psychologists must complete the standard 4 years of study in psychology with an additional 2 years of supervised practice, postgraduate coursework, or a research degree, and meet any other jurisdiction-specific requirement for registration.

MBS-subsidised other allied mental health services: services provided by allied mental health professionals such as occupational therapists, social workers and mental health nurses. These services cover *Focussed Psychological Strategies* (Allied Mental Health, occupational therapist and social worker items) and *Enhanced Primary Care* (Allied Health, mental health worker item). The mental health worker category covers Aboriginal health workers, mental health nurses, occupational therapists, some social workers as well as psychologists. Though some psychologists are covered by this item they cannot be readily separated from the other mental health workers covered so this item is counted under the heading of other allied mental health services. Appendix Table A1.1 lists these item groups and MBS item numbers. For Medicare payments to be made on these items the provider (occupational therapist, social worker or other appropriate provider) must be registered with Medicare Australia as meeting the credentialing requirements for provision of the service.

The data presented in this chapter refer to MBS-subsidised mental health services processed in the 2007–08 financial year; for comparison purposes, data are also presented from 2002–03 to 2006–07. More detailed information on the scope and coverage of the data presented in this chapter is provided in Appendix 1.

6.2 People accessing MBS-subsidised psychiatrist and allied health services

An estimated 620,237 people (2.9% of the Australian population) received MBS-subsidised psychiatrist or allied mental health services in 2007–08 (Table 6.1). Thus, on average, around one in every 34 Australians was provided with one or more of these MBS-subsidised mental health services in 2007–08. During this time period, 3,922,245 MBS-subsidised mental health services were provided, an average of 6.3 services per patient.

More patients accessed psychologist services than psychiatrist services in 2007–08. Psychiatrists provided slightly more services than psychologists, as they had a higher service/patient ratio.

Table 6.1: MBS-subsidised mental health services: numbers of patients and services, 2007–08

Provider type	Number of patients	Per cent of patients	Rate (per 1,000 population) ^(a)	Number of services	Per cent of services	Services per patient
Psychiatrist	269,582	43.5	12.7	1,949,702	49.7	7.2
Psychologist	375,411	60.5	17.7	1,877,834	47.9	5.0
Other allied mental health professional	18,995	3.1	0.9	94,709	2.4	5.0
Total^(b)	620,237	100.0	29.3	3,922,245	100.0	6.3

(a) Crude rate based on the preliminary Australian estimated resident population as at 31 December 2007.

(b) The number of patients may not sum to the total since a patient may receive a service from more than one type of provider in the course of the year but will be counted only once in the total.

Source: MBS data (DoHA).

Table 6.2 shows the age and sex distribution of patients receiving MBS-subsidised psychiatrist, psychologist and allied mental health services and the number of services each demographic group received. Females utilised services from all three provider types to a greater extent than males, however the disparity was greater for psychologist and other allied mental health services than for psychiatrist services. For psychologist and other allied mental health services, females comprised around two-thirds of the patients and their utilisation rate was double that for males.

The age distribution of patients for psychiatrist services was slightly older than that of patients for psychologist and other allied mental health services. The modal age group for psychiatrists' patients was 45–54 years while it was 35–44 years for patients of the other provider types.

Services per patient were higher for psychiatrists for patients of both sexes and all age groups except for patients aged less than 15 years.

The majority of patients who used psychiatrist, psychologist or other allied mental health services lived in *Major cities* (Table 6.3). For other allied mental health services, while the numbers of both patients and services was several times greater in the *Major cities* than in the *Inner regional* areas, once adjusted for relative population numbers, the patient rate was higher in the *Inner regional* areas. For all provider types the patient rate is lower for *Remote* and *Very remote* areas.

Table 6.2: People receiving MBS-subsidised psychiatrist, psychologist and allied mental health services: patient demographic characteristics and number of services received, 2007–08

Patient demographics	Number of patients	Per cent of patients	Rate (per 1,000 population) ^(a)	Number of services	Per cent of services	Rate (per 1,000 population) ^(a)	Services per patient
Psychiatrist services							
Age							
Less than 15 years	10,064	3.7	2.5	38,284	2.0	9.3	3.8
15–24 years	33,667	12.5	11.4	202,039	10.4	68.5	6.0
25–34 years	46,608	17.3	15.9	319,136	16.4	108.8	6.8
35–44 years	59,565	22.1	19.3	442,734	22.7	143.1	7.4
45–54 years	59,849	22.2	20.4	461,998	23.7	157.5	7.7
55–64 years	43,248	16.0	18.2	316,809	16.2	133.5	7.3
65+ years	27,576	10.2	9.9	168,702	8.7	60.3	6.1
Sex							
Male	122,613	45.5	12.5	763,671	39.2	71.8	6.2
Female	146,969	54.5	14.9	1,186,031	60.8	110.2	8.1
Total for psychiatrist services^(b)	269,582	100.0	13.7	1,949,702	100.0	92.1	7.2
Psychologist services							
Age							
Less than 15 years	33,234	8.9	8.1	150,948	8.0	36.8	4.5
15–24 years	54,939	14.6	18.6	254,304	13.5	86.2	4.6
25–34 years	81,087	21.6	27.6	398,943	21.2	136.0	4.9
35–44 years	89,744	23.9	29.0	452,951	24.1	146.4	5.0
45–54 years	69,300	18.5	23.6	352,886	18.8	120.3	5.1
55–64 years	39,471	10.5	16.6	195,774	10.4	82.5	5.0
65+ years	16,078	4.3	5.7	72,028	3.8	25.7	4.5
Sex							
Male	129,161	34.4	12.3	624,624	33.3	59.6	4.8
Female	246,250	65.6	23.4	1,253,210	66.7	119.4	5.1
Total for psychologist services^(b)	375,411	100.0	17.9	1,877,834	100.0	88.7	5.0
Other allied mental health services							
Age							
Less than 15 years	2,000	10.5	0.5	11,460	12.1	2.8	5.7
15–24 years	2,552	13.4	0.9	11,217	11.8	3.8	4.4
25–34 years	3,862	20.3	1.3	18,517	19.6	6.3	4.8
35–44 years	4,620	24.3	1.5	22,993	24.3	7.4	5.0
45–54 years	3,553	18.7	1.2	17,859	18.9	6.1	5.0
55–64 years	1,844	9.7	0.8	8,641	9.1	3.6	4.7
65+ years	902	4.7	0.3	4,022	4.2	1.4	4.5
Sex							
Male	5,992	31.5	0.6	29,416	31.1	2.8	4.9
Female	13,003	68.5	1.3	65,293	68.9	6.2	5.0
Total for other allied mental health services^(b)	18,995	100.0	0.9	94,709	100.0	4.5	5.0

(a) Rates for sex were directly age-standardised. Those for age are crude rates, as detailed in Appendix 2.

(b) The number of patients will not sum to the total since a patient may receive a service in more than one age group in the course of the year but will be counted only once in the total.

Source: MBS data (DoHA).

Table 6.3: People receiving MBS-subsidised psychiatrist, psychologist and allied mental health services: patient area of residence by remoteness area, 2007–08

Patient area of residence	Number of patients	Per cent of patients	Rate (per 1,000 population) ^(a)	Number of services	Per cent of services	Rate (per 1,000 population) ^(a)	Services per patient
Psychiatrist services							
Major cities	220,623	81.8	16.3	1,647,500	84.5	121.8	7.5
Inner regional	40,677	15.1	10.6	245,164	12.6	64.2	6.0
Outer regional	10,837	4.0	5.8	50,417	2.6	27.0	4.7
Remote	1,178	0.4	3.9	4,824	0.2	15.8	4.1
Very remote	472	0.2	3.0	1,577	0.1	10.1	3.3
Total for psychiatrist services^(b)	269,582	100.0	13.7	1,949,702	100.0	121.8	7.2
Psychologist services							
Major cities	277,489	73.9	19.9	1,422,334	75.7	101.9	5.1
Inner regional	80,112	21.3	21.0	360,614	19.2	94.4	4.5
Outer regional	21,125	5.6	11.3	87,932	4.7	47.0	4.2
Remote	1,476	0.4	4.7	5,776	0.3	18.3	3.9
Very remote	310	0.1	1.9	1,033	0.1	6.2	3.3
Total for psychologist services^(b)	375,411	100.0	17.8	1,877,689	100.0	101.9	5.0
Other allied mental health services							
Major cities	12,454	65.6	0.9	66,369	70.1	4.7	5.3
Inner regional	5,114	26.9	1.3	21,774	23.0	5.6	4.3
Outer regional	1,562	8.2	0.8	6,361	6.7	3.4	4.1
Remote	42	0.2	0.1	164	0.2	0.5	3.9
Very remote	12	0.1	0.1	41	0.0	0.2	3.5
Total for other allied mental health services^(b)	18,995	100.0	0.9	94,709	100.0	4.7	5.0

(a) Rates directly age-standardised, as detailed in Appendix 2.

(b) The number of patients will not sum to the total since a patient may receive services in more than one area of residence in the course of the year but will be counted only once in the total.

... Not applicable.

Source: MBS data (DoHA)

New South Wales had the highest number of patients for psychiatrists, psychologists and allied health professionals but Victoria had the highest number per 1,000 population for psychologists and other allied health professionals at 23.4 and 1.1, respectively (Table 6.4). The Northern Territory had the lowest number per 1,000 population for patients of all three provider groups.

Table 6.4: People receiving MBS-subsidised psychiatrist and allied health services, by item group^(a) of service, states and territories^(b), 2007–08

Item group ^(a)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total ^(c)
Psychiatrist services									
Initial consultation new patient—consulting room	23,973	19,953	14,363	6,170	6,696	1,177	1,019	301	73,593
Initial consultation new patient—hospital	2,794	1,866	1,633	642	370	257	60	10	7,624
Initial consultation new patient—home visit	580	178	35	10	88	3	8	1	903
Patient attendances—consulting room	77,070	68,165	43,628	18,529	22,506	4,016	3,111	655	236,778
Patient attendances—hospital	5,181	4,330	3,835	1,862	933	608	196	24	16,921
Patient attendances—other locations	2,132	821	149	99	298	21	17	7	3,540
Group psychotherapy	2,274	3,235	418	178	255	280	26	4	6,662
Interview with non-patient	1,411	1,357	1,110	371	344	92	42	18	4,740
Telepsychiatry	355	54	148	9	7	1	6	5	582
Case conferencing	69	393	35	26	36	34	4	0	596
Electroconvulsive therapy ^(d)	513	535	468	212	125	94	8	1	1,946
Total psychiatrist services^(c)	89,754	76,291	49,162	20,960	24,693	4,402	3,426	747	269,582
Rate (per 1,000 population) ^(e)	13.9	15.7	12.7	10.6	17.0	10.4	10.9	3.8	13.7
Psychologist services									
Psychological Therapy Services—clinical psychologist	41,369	32,264	15,461	21,616	10,990	4,140	2,172	313	127,914
Focussed Psychological Strategies—psychologist	85,338	86,352	53,775	11,438	12,011	4,985	4,096	861	257,954
Enhanced Primary Care—psychologist	1,273	930	730	100	189	39	14	4	3,274
Total psychologist services^(c)	123,021	115,843	66,948	31,999	21,919	8,762	5,788	1,102	375,411
Rate (per 1,000 population) ^(e)	18.8	23.4	16.8	15.8	14.9	19.7	17.7	5.4	17.9
Other allied mental health services									
Focussed Psychological Strategies—occupational therapist	994	681	398	344	269	88	22	1	2,794
Focussed Psychological Strategies—social worker	5,250	4,692	2,761	1,092	1,227	349	105	47	15,479
Enhanced Primary Care—mental health worker ^(f)	323	217	126	19	135	5	0	2	825
Total other allied mental health services^(d)	6,533	5,549	3,242	1,446	1,616	435	125	48	18,995
Rate (per 1,000 population) ^(e)	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.9
Total psychiatrist and allied mental health services^(c)	204,574	184,669	111,542	50,692	45,447	12,644	8,692	1,789	620,237
Rate (per 1,000 population) ^(e)	29.5	35.2	26.4	23.8	28.5	25.5	25.5	8.2	29.3

(a) See the *Medicare Benefits Schedule* data sources section of Appendix 1 for a listing of these item groups.

(b) State and territory is based on the postcode of the mailing address of the patient as recorded by Medicare Australia.

(c) The number of patients may not sum to the total since a patient may receive more than one type of service in more than one state or territory but will be counted only once in the total.

(d) Information for electroconvulsive therapy may include data for services provided by medical practitioners other than psychiatrists.

(e) Rates directly age-standardised, as detailed in Appendix 2.

(f) Includes psychologists, mental health nurses, occupational therapists, social workers and Aboriginal health workers.

Source: MBS data (Medicare Australia 2008 and DoHA).

6.3 MBS-subsidised psychiatrist and allied health services

The previous section of this chapter focused on the number of people who received MBS-subsidised mental health services. In this section, the focus is on the number of services provided.

In 2007–08 there were 1,949,702 services provided by psychiatrists, 1,877,834 services provided by psychologists and 94,709 services provided by other allied mental health professionals which were subsidised through the MBS. Thus a total of 3,922,245 psychiatrist and allied mental health services were subsidised through the MBS. This is equivalent to a rate of 185.2 services per 1,000 population (Table 6.5), up 48% on the previous year when the rate was 127.3 services per 1,000 population (Table 6.6). These services represented 1.4% of all MBS-subsidised services (278.7 million).

The introduction of MBS allied health items for people with chronic conditions and complex care needs in July 2004, followed by the introduction of the MBS items provided by psychologists, occupational therapists and social workers from November 2006, resulted in the overall number of services subsidised by Medicare for both psychiatrists and allied health professionals to almost double to nearly 4 million in 2007–08, from just over 2 million services per annum in the three years prior to 2006–07.

The services provided by psychiatrists represented 8.8% of all the MBS-subsidised specialist attendances (22.3 million) provided in 2007–08, a 4.4% decrease from 9.2% in 2006–07. This equates to a rate of 92.1 services per 1,000 population, down from 95.3 services per 1,000 population in 2006–07. Most of the MBS-subsidised psychiatrist services in 2007–08 (83.4%) were attendances provided in consulting rooms, followed by attendances in hospitals (12.3%). Group psychotherapy accounted for half of the other services provided. There was a decline in the number of MBS-subsidised psychiatrist services from 2003–04 to 2007–08 at an average annual rate of 1.0%, with the number per 1,000 population declining at an even greater average annual rate of 2.4% (Table 6.6).

The *Focussed Psychological Strategies* item group accounted for 65% of MBS-subsidised psychologist services, while the *Psychological Therapy Services* item group (available for clinical psychologists only), accounted for 35% (Table 6.5). Among other allied mental health services, the *Focussed Psychological Strategies* item group for social workers accounted for 81% of services, while the items for occupational therapists accounted for 16%.

Among the states and territories, Victoria accounted for both the highest number and rate (per 1,000 population) of MBS-subsidised psychiatrist and allied health services provided in 2007–08 (Table 6.5). Victoria's rate at 242.6 per 1,000 population was substantially higher than the national average of 185.2 services per 1,000 population. The Northern Territory had the lowest rate, with 43.6 MBS-subsidised psychiatrist and allied health services provided per 1,000 population, well below the national average.

Table 6.5: MBS-subsidised psychiatrist and allied health services, by item group^(a) of service provided, states and territories^(b), 2007–08

Item group ^(a)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total	
				Psychiatrist services						
Initial consultation new patient—consulting room	24,860	20,780	14,790	6,338	6,909	1,216	1,110	306	76,309	
Initial consultation new patient—hospital	3,365	2,051	1,846	674	426	294	64	10	8,730	
Initial consultation new patient—home visit	580	178	35	10	88	3	8	1	903	
Patient attendances—consulting room	486,150	513,538	265,193	88,657	148,308	27,205	16,912	3,287	1,549,250	
Patient attendances—hospital	52,471	68,184	61,251	25,603	13,323	9,455	1,501	252	232,040	
Patient attendances—other locations	7,383	3,471	601	477	1,247	65	58	8	13,310	
Group psychotherapy	15,850	18,137	2,898	870	567	2,877	146	15	41,360	
Interview with non-patient	1,982	1,987	1,601	439	433	126	48	18	6,634	
Telepsychiatry	643	92	334	15	9	2	11	19	1,125	
Case conferencing	80	763	41	42	47	38	4	0	1,015	
Electroconvulsive therapy ^(c)	5,280	5,327	4,886	1,480	1,216	790	45	2	19,026	
Total psychiatrist services	598,644	634,508	353,476	124,605	172,573	42,071	19,907	3,918	1,949,702	
Rate (per 1,000 population) ^(d)	86.4	120.9	83.6	58.5	108.4	84.9	58.4	18.0	92.1	
				Psychologist services						
Psychological Therapy Services—clinical psychologist	208,032	174,404	69,774	114,269	49,556	20,361	11,577	1,404	649,377	
Focused Psychological Strategies—psychologist	402,284	431,801	237,281	54,998	48,985	22,620	19,001	3,699	1,220,669	
Enhanced Primary Care—psychologist	3,056	2,213	1,731	263	356	127	28	14	7,788	
Total psychologist services	613,372	608,418	308,786	169,530	98,897	43,108	30,606	5,117	1,877,834	
Rate (per 1,000 population) ^(d)	88.5	116.0	73.0	79.6	62.1	87.0	89.8	23.5	88.7	

(continued)

Table 6.5 (continued): MBS-subsidised psychiatrist and allied health services, by item group^(a) of service provided, states and territories^(b), 2007–08

Item group ^(a)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
	Other allied mental health services								
Focussed Psychological Strategies—occupational therapist	5,830	3,826	1,999	1,563	1,642	494	3	82	15,439
Focussed Psychological Strategies—social worker	26,594	25,519	12,119	5,505	5,052	1,571	135	375	76,870
Enhanced Primary Care—mental health worker ^(e)	1,045	599	323	37	375	18	3	0	2,400
Total other allied mental health services	33,469	29,944	14,441	7,105	7,069	2,083	141	457	94,709
Rate (per 1,000 population) ^(d)	4.8	5.7	3.4	3.3	4.4	4.2	0.4	2.1	4.5
Total psychiatrist and allied mental health services	1,245,485	1,272,870	676,703	301,240	278,539	87,262	50,654	9,492	3,922,245
Rate (per 1,000 population) ^(d)	179.8	242.6	160.0	141.4	175.0	176.0	148.6	43.6	185.2

(a) See the *Medicare Benefits Schedule* data section of Appendix 1 for a listing of these item groups.

(b) State and territory is based on the postcode of the mailing address of the patient as recorded by Medicare Australia.

(c) Information for electroconvulsive therapy may include data for services provided by medical practitioners other than psychiatrists.

(d) Crude rate based on the preliminary Australian estimated resident population as at 31 December 2007.

(e) Includes psychologists, mental health nurses, occupational therapists, social workers and Aboriginal health workers.

Source: MBS data (Medicare Australia 2008 and DoHA).

Table 6.6: MBS-subsidised psychiatrist and allied health services, by item group^(a) of service provided, 2003–04 to 2007–08

Item group ^(a)	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	Average annual change (per cent)
Psychiatrist services						
Initial consultation new patient—consulting room	..	..	..	^(b) 42,944	76,309	..
Initial consultation new patient—hospital	..	..	..	^(b) 3,591	8,730	..
Initial consultation new patient—home visit	..	..	..	^(b) 448	903	..
Patient attendances—consulting room	1,745,472	1,723,598	1,708,878	1,635,793	1,549,250	-2.9
Patient attendances—hospital	208,996	209,294	225,918	222,576	232,040	2.6
Patient attendances—other locations	12,128	12,419	13,355	14,115	13,310	2.4
Group psychotherapy	41,641	40,611	43,797	41,689	41,360	-0.2
Interview with non-patient	4,301	4,670	4,845	6,093	6,634	11.4
Telepsychiatry	177	228	369	665	1,125	58.8
Case conferencing	274	545	696	637	1,015	38.7
Electroconvulsive therapy ^(c)	15,469	15,853	18,083	17,982	19,026	5.3
Total psychiatrist services	2,028,458	2,007,218	2,015,941	1,986,533	1,949,702	-1.0
Rate (per 1,000 population) ^(d)	101.3	99.0	98.1	95.3	92.1	-2.4
Psychologist services						
Psychological Therapy Services—clinical psychologist	..	..	..	^(b) 189,946	649,377	..
Focussed Psychological Strategies—psychologist	..	..	..	^(b) 407,117	1,220,669	..
Enhanced Primary Care—psychologist	..	23,092	45,541	49,190	7,788	..
Total psychologist services	..	23,092	45,541	646,253	1,877,834	..
Rate (per 1,000 population) ^(d)	..	1.1	2.2	31.0	88.7	..
Other allied mental health services						
Focussed Psychological Strategies—occupational therapist	..	..	..	^(b) 2,502	15,439	..
Focussed Psychological Strategies—social worker	..	..	..	^(b) 16,244	76,870	..
Enhanced Primary Care—mental health worker ^(e)	..	748	2,730	3,903	2,400	..
Total other allied mental health services	..	748	2,730	22,649	94,709	..
Rate (per 1,000 population) ^(d)	..	0.0	0.1	1.1	4.5	..
Total psychiatrist and allied mental health services	2,028,458	2,031,058	2,064,212	2,655,435	3,922,245	17.9
Rate (per 1,000 population) ^(d)	101.3	100.2	100.4	127.3	185.2	16.3

(a) See the *Medicare Benefits Schedule* data section of Appendix 1 for a listing of these item groups.

(b) Introduced from 1 November 2006.

(c) Information for electroconvulsive therapy may include data for services provided by medical practitioners other than psychiatrists.

(d) Crude rate based on the preliminary Australian estimated resident population as at 31 December of the reference year.

(e) Includes psychologists, mental health nurses, occupational therapists, social workers and Aboriginal health workers.

.. Not applicable.

Source: MBS data (Medicare Australia 2008 and DoHA)