



Private Health Insurance – expanding home and community based mental health and rehabilitation care

This Budget will make home and community-based care for rehabilitation services more accessible through private health insurance (PHI). Home and community care will be expanded, allowing patients to recover and rehabilitate in their own homes – if that is their preference and is clinically appropriate – with the support of their doctor.

A rehabilitation plan will be developed by an appropriate doctor, which explicitly considers home and community care options, in consultation with the patient.

This measure will also expand insurer options for funding of non-MBS mental health care services from general treatment and hospital treatment policies.

Why is this important?

Most patients prefer to recover and rehabilitate in their comfort of their own homes, if it is safe to do so. This is often a more cost-effective option than in-hospital care. Expanding community care will allow patients to recover at home and increase capacity in hospitals.

Consultations with the sector aim to ensure consumers with PHI can have access to greater range of mental health and rehabilitation services.

Who will benefit?

Australians with PHI will benefit from being able to recover – supported – in their own homes.

For mental health services, consumers will have access to a wider range of non-MBS and non-hospital services, including early intervention services.

How much will this cost?

The Department of Health will commence detailed consultation with the sector on these initiatives, with the goal of implementing these reforms from 1 April 2021.