



LifeResolutions

Media Release

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Medicare announcement for psychology is a new era for mental health services in Australia

Life Resolutions and the Psychology Sector is delighted with the new Psychology Medicare items announced on Monday by Prime Minister John Howard. Director and Principal Psychologist of Life Resolutions, Mary Magalotti, stated that "The federal news is a great outcome for the general public to have access to high quality counselling with organisations such as Life Resolutions". All Australians will now have access to effective treatment for mental health problems.

The following information has been published by the Australian Psychological Society (APS) outlining the new Medicare Items:

The Medicare initiative has been designed to encourage team-based mental health care in the community, with psychologists working alongside GPs, psychiatrists, mental health nurses and other allied mental health professionals.

The mental health psychology items involve two categories - 'general' psychology services, which can be provided by all registered psychologists and 'specialist' clinical psychology services, provided by psychologists with specialised training and qualifications.

Key components of the Government's announcement include:

- Psychology services under Medicare can be provided to people with 'an assessed mental disorder' that is being managed by a GP under a GP Mental Health Care Plan or a psychiatrist assessment and management plan, or on direct referral from a psychiatrist or a paediatrician (for treatment of a child)
- Psychology services under Medicare are limited to a maximum of 12 individual sessions per client per calendar year, with a review to the referring doctor required after the initial six sessions. Clients will also be eligible for up to 12 group session services, where appropriate, in a calendar year

For further details on the new Medicare items please refer to the following link:

<http://www.psychology.org.au/members/Medicare>

For more information contact:

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