

**Message from  
Community Sector Partnership Team**

Department of Communities



The Australian Government has announced a new initiative that gives providers more flexibility in delivering services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It now allows GPs and Medical Practitioners to use Telehealth and phone consultations, not only health professionals or patients at risk of COVID-19, which helps keep people in the community and away from hospitals.

In addition to the restrictions being lifted, the number of [Medicare Benefits Schedule \(MBS\)](#) items available through Telehealth and phone consultations has been expanded. For example, items now include consultations for the preparation of a Mental Health Treatment Plan.

This is a temporary initiative available from 13 March 2020 to 30 September 2020 (inclusive) and services must still be bulk billed. Full details are available in the attached PDF.

Also attached is a [Direction issued by the Department of Health](#) together with a flyer with tips on keeping yourself mentally well while in isolation for distribution. It's in two formats – [print ready](#) and [web](#) PDF. It's designed to be printed A5, double-sided – to cater to people who may not speak English and require a translator.