

Monday 10 December 2018

## MEDICARE FUNDING BOOST A WIN FOR EATING DISORDER TREATMENT

Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) welcomed yesterday's announcement by the Federal Government regarding its commitment to improve access and affordability for those seeking eating disorder treatment in Australia.

Under the Medicare Benefits Scheme, funding for dietetics and psychotherapeutic services has increased to ensure appropriate and on-going support is available for those requiring treatment in the community setting.

“Access to Accredited Practising Dietitians (APDs) is paramount in the mental and physical health management of those living with an eating disorder, and it's great to see funding for these services is available across the spectrum,” said Robert Hunt, CEO of DAA.

Households experience a substantial burden associated with the treatment and management of an eating disorder in Australia. From 1 November 2019, 20 dietetics and 40 psychotherapeutic services will be available for those with severe or complex illness, helping to alleviate the financial impact of treatment and management of these conditions.

“This is a significant step in the right direction as Australians experiencing an eating disorder will be able to access adequate care, whilst lessening financial burden,” said Mr Hunt.

Mr Hunt also acknowledged the strong advocacy of APDs, clinicians, allied health practitioners, organisations, families and carers who have tirelessly worked for the recognition of these complex mental illnesses.

“It's great to see the impact of many voices in helping to improve the health of Australians. DAA looks to the future to increase the subsidy of dietetics services for other diet-related conditions to help build healthier communities across the nation,” Mr Hunt said.

**ENDS**

**For further information or to organise an interview with Robert Hunt, contact Pattie King,  
Dietitians Association of Australia, on 0409 661 920.**