

Accredited Mental Health Social Workers

Information for General Practitioners



If your patient needs a skilled, experienced mental health specialist for a professional assessment, counselling or other treatment and support options, refer them to an Accredited Mental Health Social Worker.

Did you know?

Accredited Mental Health Social Workers (AMHSWs) are recognised by Medicare as providers of evidence-based mental health services under Better Access and other Medicare-funded programs.

There are 4,000 AMHSWs in Australia. Many work in independent practice and provide psychosocial support and counselling to patients referred by GPs, paediatricians and psychiatrists.

Referring to AMHSWs

Refer to an AMHSW as part of your patient's:

- Mental health treatment
- Chronic disease management
- Eating disorder psychological treatment
- Non-directive pregnancy support counselling
- Multidisciplinary care plans.

Patients require both a Mental Health Treatment Plan and a referral to access Medicare rebates for services provided by an AMHSW under the Better Access initiative.

Eligible patients can receive rebates for up to 10 individual appointments per year and up to 10 separate group therapy sessions per year with an AMHSW.

AMHSWs also provide Medicare-rebated services under other Medicare-funded programs, including as part of a patient's Chronic Disease Management Plan and Eating Disorder Treatment and Management Plan, supporting individuals with complex mental health, physical health and psychosocial needs.

Mental health specialists

AMHSWs are highly qualified practitioners who work with people across the full continuum of mental health care, including prevention, early intervention and treatment.

AMHSWs have the knowledge, skills and expertise to provide your patients with person-centred mental health support based on their individual needs and circumstances.

Other funding options

- Private health insurance under Extras/Ancillary cover
- Funding schemes, such as workers' compensation, transport accident, victim support, NDIS and veteran support services
- Full fee for service.

Find a Social Worker

Discover social work services across Australia quickly and easily with our Find a Social Worker tool. Search by name, location, or services offered at: my.aasw.asn.au/s/find-a-social-worker.

Medicare registered providers

Accredited Mental Health Social Workers are eligible for Medicare provider numbers.



AMHSWs work from a whole-person perspective, recognising the broader support requirements for an individual experiencing mental ill-health and the impact on friends, family, work and education.

AMHSWs are experienced in building relationships and working collaboratively with other health professionals to maintain multidisciplinary care.

How do AMHSWs help patients?

AMHSWs support people experiencing mild to complex mental health concerns. They provide evidence-based counselling and psychotherapy, including focused psychological strategies, tailored to the needs of the patient. AMHSWs are equipped to help individuals identify and address social and other environmental issues to improve their quality of life. This may involve individual, family and group counselling, in person or via telehealth.

What mental health issues do AMHSWs assess and treat?

- Depression/mood disorders
- Anxiety disorders
- Personality disorders
- Suicidal thoughts and behaviours
- Relationship problems
- Life crises
- Adjustment issues
- Eating disorders and disordered eating
- Trauma
- Family conflicts
- Grief, loss and bereavement
- Stress and burnout
- Psychological distress due to chronic illness, disability or caregiving
- Substance use and co-occurring mental health concerns
- Perinatal mental health concerns

How are AMHSWs accredited?

AMHSWs are qualified social workers who have specialist mental health expertise. They have been assessed and accredited by the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW). This assessment and accreditation process is recognised by the Australian Government.

YOUR LOCAL PROVIDER:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Patients with a Mental Health Treatment Plan are eligible for Medicare rebates for services provided by AMHSWs.